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ABSTRACT

This report examines the value for research and policy purposes of data generated by the "Pound 10 Grant Scheme" operated by Roinn na Gaeltachta in Ireland, which seeks to preserve the Irish language. The scheme was introduced in the early 30's by An Roinn Oideachais (an organization which had responsibility for the promotion of the Irish language at the time) in order to provide a direct economic incentive to families in Gaeltacht areas to maintain Irish as the language of the home. A full statistical digest is included of the available data pertaining to the scheme over the 11-year period 1973/74-1983/84 and assembles a comparable set of statistics relating to school pupil populations over the same years. Chapters 1 and 2 contain a detailed description of the operation of the scheme and bring into focus some important questions relating to the quality and consistency of the data, the very restricted information released about the scheme, and the limited range of other data to which they can be reliably related. Appendix A contains the digest of statistics. Using this combined data base, a cartographic and statistical analysis was undertaken of the patterns and trends revealed by the data at Gaeltacht, county and local levels. Chapter 3, using this data, presents a generalized picture of home bilingualism in the Gaeltacht during the period covered. Because of the limited scope of the data, no firm conclusions can be drawn from the analysis. (Contains 13 references.) (CK)

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Language Shift among Schoolchildren in Gaeltacht Areas 1974-1984:

An Analysis of the Distribution of *£10 Grant* Qualifiers

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Mícheál Ó Gliasáin

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Language Shift among Schoolchildren in Gaeltacht Areas 1974-1984:

An Analysis of the Distribution of *£10 Grant* Qualifiers

Mícheál Ó Gliasáin

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PREFACE

This is the second in a projected series of studies being conducted in ITÉ on language-related data collected for administrative purposes by state bodies. A preliminary report dealing with post-primary examination statistics has already been published[1] and a report on the language question in the 1981 Census of Population is in preparation.

Data of this kind are helpful in a number of ways. First, they allow certain patterns and trends in language behaviour to be identified and monitored; second, they provide a set of contextual variables with the potential to explain certain aspects of these patterns and trends; and third, their coverage is much more comprehensive than those of sample surveys. Therefore, given that the cost of language surveys for research and policy purposes is very high, it is clearly desireable to fully exploit such data resources as already exist.

This Report examines a set of data arising from the implementation of what is commonly referred to as the Roinn na Gaeltachta ***'£10 Grant Scheme'***. The scheme was established in the early 1930s by An Roinn Oideachais (which had reponsibility for the promotion of the Irish language at that time) to provide a financial inducement to parents in Gaeltacht areas to maintain Irish as the language of the home. Each year parents can apply to have the speaking competence of their children aged six years and over assessed by officials of Roinn na Gaeltachta. If the official is satisfied that the ability of the child to converse in Irish is consistent with the standard which might be expected from a child whose home language is Irish, the parents are paid a grant whose present value is £10. Although the value of the award is small, a family's eligibility for other grant schemes operated by Roinn na Gaeltachta can depend on its children consistently meeting the criteria set by the £10 Grant Scheme.

Although the data used in this Report are no longer published at regular intervals, they are available to the public. Commentators on Gaeltacht affairs frequently refer to the patterns, trends and problems which the data are presumed to reveal. However, to our knowledge, nobody has so far undertaken a sustained examination of the nature of these data. Therefore, the first two chapters of this Report contain a detailed discussion of the manner in which the data are obtained and the form in which they are released. The analysis conducted in this part of the Report highlights some serious limitations in the data as a measure of home bilingualism. There are, therefore, substantial constraints imposed on any study which relies heavily on this material to establish the patterns and directions of trends in home bilingualism, or more generally, to evaluate the impact of policies.

Nonetheless, the potential of the data for these purposes cannot be lightly ignored. Unlike the Census question on Irish and most surveys on the topic, the £10 Grant Scheme data are based on *annual assessment* of applicants by officials of Roinn na Gaeltachta and do not rely at all on self-assessment. Moreover, as is explained in the concluding chapter, if some relatively straightforward and inexpensive changes were made in the procedures relating to the scheme, the value of the data for research and policy evaluation purposes could be greatly enhanced.

In their present form, the data can only sustain an analysis of a preliminary nature, subject to many qualifications. Nevertheless, because the data are more up to date than the last major survey of language patterns in the Gaeltacht[2] and are more discriminating than the Census question on Irish speaking abilities, we felt that it was justifiable to undertake a detailed statistical and cartographic analysis. The main part of the present Report deals with the scheme during the eleven year period 1973/4 - 1983/4. Due to the nature of the data and the form in which it is released, the analysis is primarily descriptive and generally does not attempt to explain the findings.

The overall pattern revealed in this analysis will not come as a surprise to those familiar with Gaeltacht affairs in recent years. If the proportion of all children in a particular school or group of schools who qualify for the grant is accepted (albeit with reservations) as a measure of home bilingualism in an area, it is clear that a reasonably large core of relatively high home use of Irish can be found only within the two largest Gaeltacht districts of Galway and Donegal. While smaller enclaves with similarly high ratios can be found elsewhere, they are not as extensive as the two previously mentioned. The general pattern found outside the core areas is considerably weaker and shows greater signs of instability and decline. In fact, there is little evidence of genuine stability in any area.

The concluding chapter includes a summary of the Report and some suggestions for further research into issues arising from the analysis.

References

[1] **Ó Riagáin P.** (1982) 'The influence of social factors on the teaching and learning of Irish'. In *Contemporary Perspectives on the Teaching of Irish* W.F. Mackey, J. Harris, J.A. van Ek and P. Ó Riagáin, 36-53. Dublin: Bord na Gaeilge.
See also, Planning Advisory Committee (1986) *Irish and the Education System: an analysis of examination results.* Dublin: Bord na Gaeilge.

[2] **Committee on Irish Language Attitudes Research** (1975) *Report.* Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Acknowledgements

This Report is an updated edition of an earlier unpublished report covering the five years from 1973/4 to 1977/8. It was a considerable help to meet with the Roinn na Gaeltachta Stiúrthóirí who administer the scheme when the earlier edition was being prepared and to receive the comments of the former Rúnaí of Roinn na Gaeltachta, Liam Tóibín, on that completed draft. In this connection, I wish to acknowledge the role of two former Stiúrthóirí of Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann: Tomás Ó Domhnalláin, who first suggested the project, and his successor, Tomás Ó Cuilleanáin, who advised on the earlier edition.

The present Report could not have been produced without the help of officials in various public bodies who responded to queries and to requests for data. Special thanks are due to Peig Ní Chruadhlaoich, Pádraig Ó Durcáin and Breandán Ó Súilleabháin of Roinn na Gaeltachta for data relating to the grant scheme, and to Peter Kelly and Mairéad Ní Chatháin of An Roinn Oideachais for data on school populations. Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig and Nollaig Ó Muraíle of Brainse Logainmneacha an tSuirbhéireacht Ordanáis generously standardised the nomenclature while invaluable local knowledge was supplied by Dr. Dónall P. Ó Baoill and other colleagues in ITÉ. The Central Statistics Office provided special tabulations from the 1981 Census of Population.

The maps were prepared by Mr. Pat Moffat of Crowe, Schaffalitzky & Associates.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the advice and assistance of Dr. Pádraig Ó Riagáin in preparing the present edition.

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Historical Background

The Scheme was originally introduced by An Roinn Oideachais in 1933/4. The annual reports of An Roinn Oideachais around that time indicate that it had become clear to the Government that Irish was continuing to give way to English over most of the Gaeltacht area and throughout the entire Breac-Ghaeltacht area. Accordingly, it was felt necessary to persuade native Irish speakers in these areas, who saw no benefit in speaking Irish, that it would be in their interest to speak Irish as their normal home language. To this end, An Roinn Oideachais introduced a new scheme in 1933/4 whereby a grant of £2 could be paid in a given year to Gaeltacht and Breac-Ghaeltacht-resident parents or guardians in respect of each of their children aged 6-14, once An Roinn Oideachais was convinced that their home language was Irish; that they had concomitant fluency in the language; that they attended a Gaeltacht or a Breac-Ghaeltacht primary school regularly and punctually and made good progress throughout the school year.

Reviewing the first year of the scheme, the Annual Report of An Roinn Oideachais for 1933/4 concluded that it appeared to be proving popular and that the number of grants and of families involved were likely to increase. Grant numbers did rise, from 9,000 to 11,000 within two years, but rose no higher (Table 1.1). Possibly because of this, the Report for 1936/7 shows some shifts in emphasis. Thus for example, to *inform* parents ('cur i dtuiscint') became *drive home to* parents ('cur abhaile ar'), while *normal* home language ('í a bheith mar ghnáth-urlabhra acu ina dtithe') became the *sole* language of the home *and no other* to be spoken to the children ('an Ghaeilge a chleachtadh mar aon-teanga 'na dtighthe agus gan a malairt do labhairt le na gcloinn'). Nevertheless, numbers in receipt of the grant steadily declined, reaching their lowest point since the first year of the scheme in 1944/5.

TABLE 1.1: ANNUAL NUMBER OF GRANT QUALIFIERS 1933/4-1971/2.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SCHEME:							
An Roinn Oideachais				Roinn na Gaeltachta			
£2 GRANT:		£5 GRANT:		£5 GRANT:		£10 GRANT:	
1933-34	8996	1945-46	9786	1956-57	9615	1964-65	8507
1934-35	10226	1946-47	10134	1957-58	10039	1965-66	8817
1935-36	11061	1947-48	10169	1958-59	9358	1966-67	8591
1936-37	10970	1948-49	10172	1959-60	9774	1967-68	8478
1937-38	11060	1949-50	10343	1960-61	9256	1968-69	8370
1938-39	10871	1950-51	10226	1961-62	9520	1969-70	8199
1939-40	10743	1951-52	10423	1962-63	9158	1970-71	9099
1940-41	10752	1952-53	10272	1963-64	8475	1971-72	8163
1941-42	10485	1953-54	10196	AVERAGE	9399	AVERAGE	8528
1942-43	10174	1954-55	N.A.				
1943-44	9808	1955-56	9844				
1944-45	9629	AVERAGE:	10156				
AVERAGE:	10398						

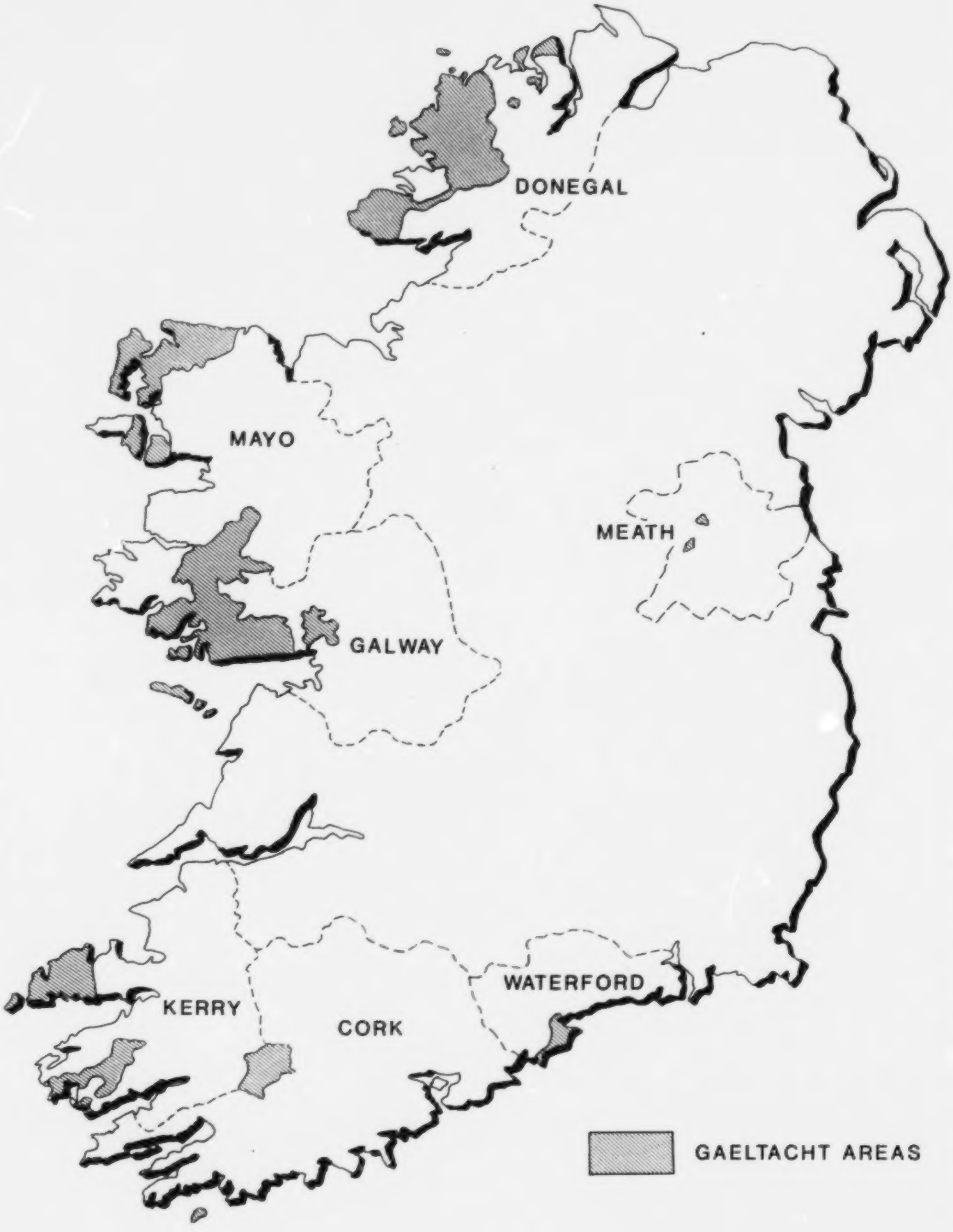
NOTE 1. The numbers in this Table refer to those who qualified for the grant each year, not to the number of grants paid out. The data up to 1956-57 inclusive refer to the school year; thereafter to the financial year.

NOTE 2. Even though Roinn na Gaeltachta assumed overall responsibility for the scheme in 1956-57, the assessment of grant applicants continued to be the responsibility of Inspectors of An Roinn Oideachais until 1975-76, when this function passed to the Area Directors ('Stiúrthóirí') of Roinn na Gaeltachta.

NOTE 3. The value of the grant was increased to £5 from 1945-46 and to £10 from 1964-65 (see text).

SOURCE: Data up to and including the year 1953-54 are taken from The Annual Report of An Roinn Oideachais 1954-55, the last Report to contain full figures. The remaining data were supplied by Roinn na Gaeltachta.

From the following year (1945/6), the value of the grant was increased from £2 to £5 and eligibility was extended to include post-primary students up to the age of 16. While the number of grants edged back above the 10,000 mark almost immediately, it never rose much above this level thereafter. It would appear from census data that this decline was due more to linguistic than population factors. Table 1.2 shows that, even at the outset of the scheme, there was a high ratio of non-Irish speakers to Irish speakers among the preschool 3-4 year age group in the Fíor-Ghaeltacht areas; and while the initial success of the £2 grant scheme in the mid-1930s appears to to have effected a lowering of this ratio, the Tables show the improvement to have been shortlived.



MAP 1: LOCATION OF GAELTACHT AREAS

TABLE 1.2: RATIO OF NON-IRISH SPEAKERS TO IRISH SPEAKERS AMONG 3-4 YEAR OLD GAELTACHT RESIDENTS IN EACH CENSUS 1926-1981

A ratio over 1.00 indicates more English-speaking than Irish-speaking children.

MALES

YEAR	D'GAL	G'WAY	MAYO	KERRY	CORK	W'FORD	MEATH	CLARE	TOTAL
1926*	0.84	1.44	2.11	2.07	1.76	3.21	NA	6.82	1.46
1936*	0.36	0.87	1.39	1.32	0.84	6.80	NA	7.50	0.87
1946*	0.65	0.85	1.80	1.97	1.46	3.87	NA	21.0	1.08
1961	0.44	0.32	1.53	0.54	0.50	0.23	NA	NA	0.54
1971	0.51	0.60	2.75	0.53	0.35	0.45	2.12	NA	0.73
1981	0.73	0.98	2.06	0.85	0.62	0.71	7.00	NA	0.98

FEMALES

YEAR	D'GAL	G'WAY	MAYO	KERRY	CORK	W'FORD	MEATH	CLARE	TOTAL
1926*	0.77	1.24	2.10	2.09	2.67	3.62	NA	3.93	1.38
1936*	0.36	0.89	1.30	1.38	0.98	3.32	NA	19.0	0.87
1946*	0.62	0.90	2.11	2.62	1.65	6.58	NA	NO IR.	1.17
1961	0.36	0.31	1.70	0.48	0.40	0.71	NA	NA	0.52
1971	0.45	0.60	1.42	0.43	0.30	0.30	0.75	NA	0.61
1981	0.57	0.79	2.30	0.80	0.38	0.35	13.0	NA	0.82

* Data for 1926, 1936 and 1946 refer to the 'Fíor-Ghaeltacht' area only.
SOURCE: Based on Census of Population for the relevant years.

The 1946 Census (Vol. 8, Table 9) shows that the total Gaeltacht population aged 3 and over fell by 7% between 1936 and 1946. However, this was accompanied by a 19% reduction in the number of Irish speakers whereas the number of non-Irish speakers rose by 9%. More importantly, in the *Fíor*-Ghaeltacht areas where native Irish speakers formed a much higher percentage of the population, the number of Irish speakers fell by 15% while the number of non-Irish speakers rose by 29%. The most extreme percentage shifts occurred in the tiny Fíor-Ghaeltacht area of Co. Clare (the entire Clare Gaeltacht subsequently lost its official Gaeltacht status) but though the percentages varied among and between the other Gaeltachtaí, the fact remains that in the Fíor-Ghaeltacht and Breac-Ghaeltacht areas of every county, the number of Irish speakers was falling while the number of non-Irish speakers was rising.

In 1956/7, responsibility for the grant scheme passed to the newly-constituted Roinn na Gaeltachta, although applicants continued to be assessed by inspectors of An Roinn Oideachais until the mid 1970s. The average number of grants continued to decline, reaching their lowest point since the inception of the scheme in 1963/4. From the following year, 1964/5, following recommendations by *An Coimisiún um Athbheochan na Gaeilge* (1963), the value of the grant was doubled to £10 and the scheme was extended to include those over sixteen years of age who were in fulltime education or on a fulltime training course. However, the downward trend continued.

1.2 Present Administration of the Grant Scheme

Roinn na Gaeltachta ('An Roinn') may grant £10 in any given school year to the parent or guardian of any child if An Roinn is satisfied that:

- the child comes from a home where Irish is the language normally used
- has concomitant natural fluency in spoken Irish
- was at least six years old on January 1st of the current school year
- was engaged as a day-pupil in fulltime education or as a trainee on a fulltime work-preparation course, and
- was living with his/her parent or guardian for most of the year, either within the Gaeltacht itself or in another area designated by An Roinn for the purposes of the Scheme.

A child is assessed for the grant only if an application form has been lodged on his/her behalf. However, as the refusal of the £10 grant to a child may disqualify the parents from receiving various other grants, the assessment is seen as being important, both by the parents and by Roinn na Gaeltachta.

Since 1975/6, assessment of grant applicants has been entrusted to the local Roinn na Gaeltachta Stiúrthóir in each of the three main Gaeltacht areas - Donegal, Munster (covering Kerry, Cork and Waterford) and Connaught (Galway and Mayo, along with Meath in Leinster) - see Map 1. The normal procedure is for the Stiúrthóir to visit each school attended by grant applicants sometime during the school year, beginning around November. Applicants are interviewed alone (except for siblings) in a room set aside for this purpose. If he considers it necessary, the Stiúrthóir may visit a child's home for further clarification. Details of successful candidates are sent to An Roinn some time after July and the grants are usually posted to the parents before the end of September.

Grants may be refused outright but in borderline cases the grant may be allowed and a warning issued when the grant is posted to the parents. Grants are not given on a family basis; one sibling may pass while another is refused. Those refused the grant may appeal for reassessment and children refused the grant one year may qualify the following year if they satisfy the Stiúrthóir. Roinn na Gaeltachta states that there is no annual target or limit set on the number or percentage of grants and each application is dealt with on its merits without regard to budgetary considerations.

1.3 The Data used in the Report

Up to and including the year 1946/7, the Annual Reports of An Roinn Oideachais included not only the number of primary school pupils who qualified for the grant, but also the number of families to which these children belonged. From 1945/6, when post-primary students up to the age of sixteen became eligible, the number of these who earned the grant was published each year but the number of families to which they belonged was not shown on the grounds that most of them were already included in the number of families shown under the primary figures. From 1947/8 until statistics ceased to be published in 1953/4 only the number of primary and post-primary grant qualifiers was shown, with no data on the number of families to which they belonged. This is a serious weakness in the data as it greatly restricts an analysis of the scheme's effectiveness in achieving its primary aim of maintaining Irish language usage in the home.

Since 1953/4, information on the annual number and distribution of grant qualifiers has not been published regularly. It can be obtained from Roinn na Gaeltachta but it must be emphasised that the data, as released, merely show the number of grant qualifiers in each school containing one or more successful applicants set against the total population of that school. No information is provided concerning age, gender, school grade, residence, or any other characteristics of applicants (or of potential valid applicants) and their families. It was originally hoped to link family scores based on £10 grant data with data on other grants administered by An Roinn but neither could be procured in any usable form. Therefore, only two statistics are available for analysis: the total number of *successful* grant applicants in a given school; and these as a percentage of *all* pupils in that school. Even the simple exercise of aggregating statistics from a number of schools into area scores can be problematical, for reasons dealt with later.

Of course, the advantages of the data vis-a-vis census and survey-type data are considerable and should not be underestimated. First, they provide much more comprehensive coverage of the Gaeltacht than a sample; and second, they involve annual assessment by public servants, as opposed to occasional self-assessment. Despite these advantages however, the data are inadequate and limited in certain key respects. Therefore, before any attempt is made to use the data for analytical purposes, these qualifications need to be looked at in some detail. They will be discussed under two headings: first, some general issues relating to the procedures used in assessing applicants, and second, difficulties posed for analysis by the nature of the data made available.

1.4 Some Issues Relating to the Assessment Process

1.4.1 We have noted that assessment for the grant is designed to identify children with natural fluency in spoken Irish concomitant with coming from a home where Irish is the language normally used. The phrase 'natural fluency' (a direct translation of 'go líofa nádúrtha') is a very difficult concept to operationalise and assess. For example, 'fluency' was only one of four provisionally defined components of oral communicative competence drawn up by a colloquium of experts some years ago (Palmer et al., 1981). As defined, fluency consisted of the overall *quantity* and *tempo* of production, that is, 'the ability to produce an amount of language within a limited period of time consistent with native speaker norms for the type of message communicated ... [and] the ability to maintain, confidently, a pace of rhythm consistent with norms for native speakers of a given dialect or set of dialects' (ibid., p.ix).

The three other components of oral communicative competence related to the linguistic, sociolinguistic and pragmatic rules employed by the speakers of a given dialect (or set of dialects) and to a speaker's breadth and accuracy of control over them. *Linguistic* rules cover phonology, morphology and syntax: linguistic control covers the range of structures attempted and the degree to which they are produced correctly. *Sociolinguistic* rules are conventions for producing textually cohesive speech in an appropriate register with appropriate cultural references: sociolinguistic control covers the range of language-use situations in which the speaker is sensitive to prevailing standards in these areas and the degree to which the language produced conforms to prevailing standards. *Pragmatic* rules are conventions relating the form of an utterance to the intended meaning, important factors being the extent of vocabulary and accuracy of pronunciation: pragmatic control consists of the range and complexity of messages communicated and the degree to which the language produced correctly communicates the details of the content.

If the aim of the grant assessments is to measure fluency in the specific form defined by Palmer et al., it is significant that it was decided soon after the colloquium to drop this fluency component as it was 'incompatible with important testing methods' such as discrete-point and multiple choice (ibid. viii). If, on the other hand, 'natural fluency/go líofa nádúrtha' refers to a general linguistic/sociolinguistic/pragmatic oral communicative competence - and given that varying degrees of Irish/English bilingualism are already the norm in most Gaeltacht areas - we are left with the problem of how to define local native speaker norms. In any case, assessing fluency for the purposes of the grant will clearly depend to a large extent on qualitative judgments by the assessor rather than a quantitative checklist of criteria. Therefore, the absence of standard assessment criteria for the grant means that we do not know the extent to which different Stiúrthóirí would agree in their assessments of a given applicant or the extent to which an individual Stiúrthóir would assess a given applicant differently on two or more occasions. For long-term analysis, these difficulties are compounded by the transfer of Departmental responsibility for assessing applicants in 1975/6.

1.4.2 Successive censuses and surveys (e.g. CLAR, 1975; Ó Riagáin & Ó Gliasáin, 1984) show continued improvement in self-assessed ability to speak Irish the longer and more intensive the exposure to it in school. Annual grade-specific grant data for each school would help to test these claims but it could not be obtained. However, ITÉ surveys of Gaeltacht primary schools in the first half of the 1980's (Harris & Murtagh, 1987) showed that the percentage of £10 grant qualifiers rose from 38% to 48% between second and sixth grades. Moreover, this rise in grant performance did not reflect the full scale of the improvement in command of spoken Irish during that period as measured by objective tests. As improved ability was due neither to variations in home use of Irish nor to the amount of Irish taught at different school grades, the authors speculate that Irish usage by the children's peers, inside and/or outside school, may be the crucial variable. However, we lack independent corroborative data to test this.

1.4.3 In any case, using six years as the minimum age for assessment is less than ideal for the identification of 'home-bred' Gaeilgeoirí since most children will have had considerable exposure to Irish in school by that age. Census data regularly show much lower percentages of Gaeltacht 3-4 year olds returned as Irish speakers compared with older school-going cohorts; and it is also significant that the ITÉ study of All-Irish schools in the Dublin area (Ó Gliasáin, 1977; Ó Riagáin & Ó Gliasáin, 1979) found that most schools were willing to accept new pupils with little or no ability in Irish *up to the age of six* as experience had shown that they easily became fluent in Irish within a year or so. The absence of standard dates for assessing pupils for the £10 grant may thus favour pupils who are not assessed until late in the school year, especially six year olds being assessed for the first time.

1.5 Data Constraints on Analysis

1.5.1 As already mentioned, it cannot be established how many families (as opposed to pupils) attend each school, or the extent to which siblings attend different schools. Nor do we know how many families receive grants in respect of one child while another is refused or is not entered for assessment. It is also regrettable, given that the census generally shows significant gender differences in the percentages of Irish speakers among Gaeltacht 3-4 year olds, that we cannot determine differential grant performance by boys and girls.

1.5.2 We also do not know how many of those refused the grant were deemed worthy of it after reassessment or in a subsequent year. Nor do we know how many of the pupils in each school who did not receive grants in any given year were actually refused the grant and how many of them were simply not considered, either because they were too young or because, for some other reason, no application forms for assessment were lodged. There is ample evidence from various western countries in the area of social welfare to show that significant numbers of people do not, for various reasons, apply for monies to which they are legally entitled (see, for example, NESC, 1978). While Roinn na Gaeltachta maintains that the number of such non-applicants is very small in the case of the £10 grant, it could still be important to know the exact size of this group in analysing the performance of individual schools. Many of the Gaeltacht schools are so tiny that the characteristics and/or behaviour of one or two families (family size and composition, migration decisions, etc.) can seriously distort a given school profile from year to year. Indeed, school populations vary so widely in size, even within the same area, that inter-school percentage comparisons are not always valid.

1.5.3 The fact that school enrolment figures for the primary and post-primary sectors are collected on different dates also poses some difficulties. Data for vocational, community and comprehensive schools refer specifically to September 1st of the current school year; data for secondary schools refer to those enroled 'on or before' October 15th; while data for primary schools refer to September 30th (i.e., since 1974/5; before that they were collected in February, which probably helps to explain some of the more extreme discrepancies in relative grant performance by some primary schools in 1973/4 as compared with subsequent years). As grant assessment does not normally begin until November and continues throughout the school year, there is clearly a problem in basing grant performance on available school population data.

1.5.4 There is a handful of instances where the number of grants earned in a given school in a given year exceeded (albeit minimally) the total recorded enrolment of that school. Roinn na Gaeltachta, upon rechecking, confirmed these figures, putting the discrepancies down to 'bureaucratic factors'. Late enrolments alone cannot explain these discrepancies as the bureaucracy is such that some primary grants for the school year 1984/5, for example, had still not been cleared seven months into the next school year. Hence, we do not know the extent to which schools with less 'suspicious-looking' figures contain similar bureaucratic additions for any given year.

1.5.5 School closures and amalgamations tend to confuse the picture in some areas. While this report ignores grant performance in the very large number of Gaeltacht primary schools which closed in the six or seven years prior to our period, it should be noted that a high proportion of the grant-earners in some schools at the beginning of our period may have come from recently closed schools. On the other hand, it is not always clear that the pupils from a closed school moved en bloc to the school with which their former school was officially amalgamated. In addition, there is the problem of *temporary* school closures and amalgamations (e.g. for building or renovation purposes) and the practice of temporarily subsuming the grants data and/or the school population of School X under School Y. Finally, some post-primary schools changed status (e.g. from secondary to vocational) during or shortly before our period.

1.5.6 Grant applications are not confined to pupils either residing or attending schools within the official Gaeltacht as defined in 1956, 1967 and 1974. Applications are entertained in respect of pupils attending any school which was on a pre-1956 list of schools kept by an Roinn Oideachais for the purposes of the scheme, or indeed, any other school subsequently recognised for such purposes. This can have a significant impact on the analysis of local patterns. First, there is official confusion as to the Gaeltacht status of a number of schools. Second, some Gaeltacht schools are located in areas which have been Anglophone for generations while some technically Galltacht schools located near the Gaeltacht boundary contain sizable numbers of Irish speakers. These problems are particularly pertinent in the case of new areas added to the official Gaeltacht since 1956 (**Clochán**, in Kerry, for example).

1.6 Conclusion

1.6.1 Because of the factors noted above, it is difficult to know to what extent the £10 grant data in their present form allow us to validly measure household use of Irish among the pupils of different schools. *At best, it seems that they permit us to do no more than tentatively identify broad patterns.* Even striking variations, whether between schools or from year to year within schools, cannot be confidently understood to imply real changes in household language behaviour. We simply do not know the unique circumstances influencing grant performance in a given school. For example, there is anecdotal evidence that sudden unexpected shifts in grant performance in certain schools (and indeed, initial choice of school and/or subsequent inter-school enrolment transfers) may be due to the influence of particular teachers. Thus, while Roinn na Gaeltachta maintains that the level of grant performance in a school may normally be taken as a fairly accurate reflection of the level of Irish usage in pupils' homes, this cannot be accepted as a hard-and-fast rule, especially in schools which have shown sudden dramatic shifts. Important issues of this kind require further investigation before any confident conclusions can be drawn.

1.6.2 Related to the previous point is the extent to which usage patterns in pupils' homes can be taken as representing community usage. There is evidence to suggest that, among adults at any rate, Irish usage in Gaeltacht areas increasingly resembles the network-based pattern of Galltacht areas, being based on regular usage between particular individuals rather than community usage as such (Argoff, 1975; CCP, 1988). Apart from the fact that we do not know the specific local factors influencing Irish usage in a given area, the relationship between a given school catchment area and a specific community is by no means easy to establish. This applies especially at post-primary level where the schools are not only few and far between but tend to be of a type that might not appeal to certain types of students or their parents. Thus, for example, there is only one secondary school in the Galway Gaeltacht and there is none in the Donegal Gaeltacht (they are all vocational, community or comprehensive). In addition, there is some evidence that the school ethos, specific teachers or other factors can influence the choice of school at both primary and second levels. Yet again, we simply do not have the relevant data to test this.

1.6.3 The analysis in the following pages, therefore, should be read as no more than a preliminary attempt to deliniate the extent of the Gaeltacht during the years examined. Notwithstanding the qualifications noted above, there is a substantial degree of consistency apparent in the overall patterns and trends●

Chapter Two

Some Methodological Considerations

2.0 Introduction

Before presenting the findings, it is necessary to explain the manner in which the data have been processed and how some of the problems noted in Chapter One have been dealt with. In particular, it is necessary to demonstrate why grant performance is largely presented in terms of the percentage of the *total school population* awarded the grant, even though this figure includes unknown numbers of non-applicants; and to draw attention to the fact that the Gaeltacht is not a self-contained unit by highlighting the problems posed by Gaeltacht and Galltacht students attending each others' schools.

It will be recalled that the grant can be applied for only in respect of those aged six years and over on January 1st of the current school year who were in fulltime education or on a fulltime work-preparation course. We do not know how many students in a given year and area were in third level education or on fulltime work-preparation courses but since this Report is concerned solely with those in primary and post-primary schools, this matter need not concern us here. The school populations provided by Roinn na Gaeltachta and An Roinn Oideachais include unknown numbers of persons entitled to apply for the grant who did not do so but, for the present, it is accepted that these are a small proportion of those entitled to apply. More immediately problematical is the unknown proportion of under six year olds in primary schools who were too young to apply for assessment.

2.1 Identifying the under-six-year-olds

How do we decide what proportion of primary school populations are under six years of age on January 1st of each school year? One solution would be to accept the *national* percentage of under six year olds in fulltime attendance in national schools. This can be calculated from the Annual Statistical Reports of An Roinn Oideachais and ranged from 18% to 20% for the period covered by this report. Table 2.1 subtracts the 1980/1 figure of 18% from the school populations for that year for various subareas within the Gaeltacht. (The location of these subareas is shown in later sections). Needless to remark, grant performance improves significantly in almost every area as a result. However, in the case of Ceantar na nOileán, it improves to 108%! Therefore, it is unsafe to apply the national percentage of under six year olds indiscriminately to the Gaeltacht, especially at local level.

TABLE 2.1: GRANT PERFORMANCE IN LOCAL GAELTACHT PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN 1980/81

COUNTY & SUB-AREA	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Northeast Donegal	178	26%	31%	+24
Northwest Donegal	1267	49%	59%	
Central Donegal	145	38%	46%	+16
Southern Donegal	144	27%	33%	
DONEGAL	1734	41%	50%	
Árainn	185	80%	98%	
Ceantar na nOileán	278	88%	108%	
Carna	198	61%	75%	
Ros Muc-Ceathrú Rua	418	72%	88%	
Ros an Mhíl- Bearna	487	48%	58%	
East Galway	26	4%	5%	
Moycullen Area	63	18%	21%	+ 4
Joyce Country	79	31%	38%	
GALWAY	1734	47%	58%	+27 in Galway City
Belmullet A	58	13%	16%	
Belmullet B	66	26%	32%	
Belmullet C	17	5%	6%	
Corrán and Acaill	69	15%	18%	
Loch Measc Area	45	23%	28%	
MAYO	255	15%	19%	
CORK	158	23%	28%	
WATERFORD	92	27%	33%	
MEATH	70	31%	38%	
Corca Dhuibhne	406	51%	62%	+8
Uíbh Ráthach	64	25%	31%	+1
KERRY	470	45%	54%	
TOTAL GAELTACHT	4513	38%	46%	

Col.(A) shows the number of grants earned in GAELTACHT schools only.
Col.(B) shows Col.(A) as a percentage of the total local school populations.
Col.(C) percentages are based on 82% of the same school populations, i.e., 100% minus 18% estimated to be under six years of age on 1/1/1981.
Col.(D) shows the number of additional grants earned in local GALLTACHT schools

The most obvious course would be to seek the actual figures for each school for each year. However, both Roinn na Gaeltachta and An Roinn Oideachais stated that these data could not be provided. Nevertheless, An Roinn Oideachais agreed to provide the data for one year only. As it was considered worthwhile to attempt comparisons with the data from the Census of Population of Ireland carried out in April 1981 (see below), the data requested was for the number and percentage of under six year olds in each Gaeltacht primary school on January 1st 1981. Regrettably, even this could not be provided in full, as figures for the previous year had to be used in the case of Mayo, Meath and Waterford and there were many schools omitted from the calculations which other evidence suggested were Gaeltacht schools (see Section 2.2).

In the event, the exercise produced an overall Gaeltacht figure of 15.7%, which is close enough to the national figure of 18.1% for that year. The scores for the Gaeltacht areas of each county ranged from 12.5% in Mayo to 18.6% in Meath. It may or may not be significant that both of these figures refer to the previous year but *inter-school* scores within each Gaeltacht ranged much wider than this (see Table 2.2).

TABLE 2.2: PERCENTAGE OF UNDER SIX YEAR OLD PUPILS IN GAELTACHT PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON JANUARY 1st 1981: RANGE OF INTER-SCHOOL SCORES WITHIN COUNTIES

COUNTY:	DONEGAL	GALWAY	MAYO	KERRY	CORK	W'FORD	MEATH	TOTAL
RANGE OF SCORES:	8-25%	0-29%	0-42%	0-32%	2-33%	0-19%	16-22%	0-42%

SOURCE: An Roinn Oideachais (Special Tabulation).

Given that demographic changes occurred throughout our period, we have no way of knowing if the figures for 1981 are valid for other years. In an ideal situation, all pupils aged six years and over attending Gaeltacht primary schools should earn the grant. In fact, if we apply the 1981 Gaeltacht primary school figure of 84% (i.e. 100% less 15.7% under six years old) to the averaged scores for the first three years of the 1980s, we find this figure equalled or exceeded in only eight of the 144 Gaeltacht primary schools (all of them in Galway). Lowering the threshold to 80% brings in another five (three of them in Galway). Lowering it still further to 75% brings in another eleven (six of them in Galway), giving a total of 24 out of 144, or one school in six. Similarly, while *all post-primary students* should ideally earn the grant each year, less than a third of the 26 Gaeltacht schools reached or exceeded 75% (eight schools, five of them in Galway) and only three of the schools reached or exceeded 90% (see Table 2.3).

TABLE 2.3: SUMMARY AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE IN GAELTACHT PRIMARY SCHOOLS (AND IN PARENTHESES, POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS) IN THE EARLY 1980s (1981/2-1983/4)

	TOTAL	DONEGAL	GALWAY	MAYO	KERRY	CORK	W'FORD	MEATH
>75%	24 (8)	4 (1)	17 (5)	. .	2 (1)	. .	. (1)	1 .
51-75%	40 (7)	14 (1)	14 (2)	4 (1)	5 (2)	2 (1)	1 .	. .
26-50%	21 (5)	6 (2)	3 .	. .	5 (1)	5 (2)	1 .	1 .
0-25%	59 (6)	16 (1)	10 .	26 (5)	4 .	2 .	1 .	. .
TOTAL	144 (26)	40 (5)	44 (7)	30 (6)	16 (4)	9 (3)	3 (1)	2 (0)

NOTE: See Table 3.3 for fuller details.

Thus, while there are substantial variations in the proportion of under six year olds in Gaeltacht primary schools, there are even greater variations in the proportion of pupils awarded the grant. Given these findings, it has been decided to base grant performance in each school on the total population enrolled in that school although there is an obvious need for caution in assessing the results, particularly with regard to individual schools.

2.2 Identifying Gaeltacht schools

The identification of Gaeltacht schools was problematic. Attempts to compile a definitive list from lists supplied by Roinn na Gaeltachta and An Roinn Oideachais were frustrated by numerous discrepancies between these lists. Table 2.4 summarises the discrepancies between the three major lists supplied with reference to primary schools in 1980.

TABLE 2.4: PRIMARY SCHOOLS APPARENTLY OPEN IN 1980 WHOSE GAELTACHT STATUS DIFFERS AS BETWEEN THREE OFFICIAL LISTS[1]

X = Identified as a Gaeltacht school on a given official list
- = Not so identified
Underlined = No pupils qualified for the grant between 1973/4 and 1983/4

ROLL NO.	NAME/LOCATION	OFFICIAL LIST A	B	C
	DONEGAL (7)			
16242	Dumhaigh Bhig	-	X	X
19252	Carraig Airt	-	-	X
18766	An Mhaoil Rua	X	X	-
15955	Árainn Mhór	-	X	X
16823	Mín an Ghabhann	-	-	X
16869	An Bhreacaigh	X	X	-
17328	An Roisín	-	X	-
	GALWAY (8)			
17660	N.Treasa, An Caiseal	-	-	X
17574	Cill Chiaráin,Carna	X	X	-
13914	Rathún, Bearna	X	-	X
08446	Tulaigh Mhic Aodh'n	-	X	X
17491	Baile Grifín	-	X	-
16975	N.Bríd, Cor an Dola	-	X	X
19403	Sraith Salach	-	X	X
18252	Doire Oir. Ghlinne	X	-	-
	MAYO (8)			
11582	Béal Deirg	-	X	X
14188	Barr na Trá	-	X	X
14258	An Chill Mhór	-	X	X
17596	An Doirín	-	X	X
14863	Gob an Choire	-	X	X
16379	Tóin An tSeanbhaile[2]	-	X	X
17524	Inis Bigil	-	X	X
15073	An tSraith	-	X	X
	KERRY (1)			
06227	Smeirbhic	-	X	X
	CORK (3)			
14839	Garrán Uí Chea.n'gh	-	X	X
14816	Baile Uí Bhuaigh	X	-	X
10471	Cúil An Bhuacaigh[3]	X	X	-
	MEATH (2)			
17513	Cill Bhríde	-	-	X
18174	Baile Óraí	-	-	X

[1] LIST A provided by AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS in Jun. 1988 but with ref. to 1980
LIST B provided by ROINN NA GAELTACHTA in Mar. 1980
LIST C provided by ROINN NA GAELTACHTA in Jan. 1986

[2] No grants at Tóin an tSeanbhaile until 1983/4

[3] Cúil an Bhuacaigh appears to have closed ca. 1983

There are 29 disputed schools in Table 2.4. Both Roinn na Gaeltachta lists agreed that 15 of these 29 schools are in the Gaeltacht and that a sixteenth is not in the Gaeltacht. These status ascriptions were accepted throughout this report. Most of the discrepancies among the remaining schools were subsequently resolved but where any hint of doubt remains, this is indicated.

The fact that one third of the 29 disputed schools contained no grant qualifier throughout our period probably contributed to the confusion regarding their Gaeltacht status and suggests that, whatever about their de jure status, they are de facto Galltacht schools. Eight of the 15 disputed schools ascribed Gaeltacht status on both Roinn na Gaeltachta lists contained no grant qualifiers during our period. The school populations of these eight, as well as those of other no-grant Gaeltacht schools whose status is not in dispute, have generally been excluded from Chapter Three calculations of area grant performance based on combinations of Gaeltacht school populations (although they are always identified as no-grant Gaeltacht schools). This should be borne in mind at all times, especially with regard to Mayo, which contains a substantial number of such schools.

Nonetheless, while this report may occasionally assign Gaeltacht status to schools that are technically in the Galltacht (and vice versa) it is hoped that these few cases reflect local realities.

2.3 Identifying Gaeltacht-resident students

Given that the main objective of the grant scheme is home use of Irish, grant performance should ideally be based on those living in a particular area who are entitled to apply for the grant, regardless of where they attend school. However, for a variety of reasons, including the size and location of local communities and the range of educational options available, numbers of Gaeltacht and Galltacht students cross the Gaeltacht boundary to attend school. If these numbers are substantial (in either direction) it may not be advisable to base grant performance in a given area on the populations of local schools.

Table 2.5 shows that over 90% of *grant qualifiers* in every county except Meath attended Gaeltacht schools in 1980/1.

TABLE 2.5: GRANT QUALIFIERS AT Gaeltacht SCHOOLS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL GRANT QUALIFIERS IN EACH GAELTACHT COUNTY IN 1980/1.

	D'GAL	G'WAY	MAYO	KERRY	CORK	W'D	M'TH	TOTAL
PRIMARY LEVEL	98%	98%	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%	98%
SECOND LEVEL	78%	87%	92%	83%	95%	76%	0%	83%
PRIMARY AND SECOND LEVEL COMBINED	91%	95%	97%	91%	98%	91%	69%	93%

NOTE: For full details on the calculations in this and subsequent Tables, see Appendix at the end of this Chapter.

The primary level average was a constant 98-100%, but at second level the much lower average of 83% ranged widely between and within the various Gaeltachtaí. In Northeast Donegal, South Kerry (Uíbh Ráthach) and Meath for example, where there are no second level schools within the Gaeltacht boundary, many students, unable or unwilling to travel to Gaeltacht schools in other areas, attend Galltacht schools. Because primary grants greatly outnumber post-primary grants in most of the Gaeltachtaí, these wide variations at second level tend to be submerged when primary and post-primary data are combined into single scores. Table 2.6 demonstrates this further by providing two sets of figures. The left-hand columns involve grant qualifiers attending Gaeltacht schools only; those on the right add grant qualifiers in Galltacht schools to those in Gaeltacht schools but leave Gaeltacht school populations constant.

TABLE 2.6: GRANT QUALIFIERS AT Gaeltacht SCHOOLS AND AT Gaeltacht + Galltacht SCHOOLS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF Gaeltacht SCHOOLS ESTIMATED TO BE AGED 6^+ IN 1980/1.

LEVEL	DONEGAL		GALWAY		MAYO		KERRY		CORK		W'FORD		MEATH		TOTAL	
PRIMARY	50%	51%	58%	59%	19%	19%	54%	55%	28%	28%	33%	33%	38%	38%	46%	47%
SECOND	42%	54%	80%	92%	14%	15%	72%	86%	37%	38%	98%	128%	-------		46%	55%
TOTAL	48%	52%	63%	67%	16%	17%	61%	67%	32%	33%	42%	46%	38%	55%	46%	50%

NOTE: Those aged 6^+ calculated as in Table 2.1, Column C.

As in Table 2.5, the combined primary and second level figures tend to reflect the primary level figures. Not surprisingly, the Galltacht grants make little or no difference at primary level while they make very considerable differences at second level: in Waterford for example, the number of grants earned by post-primary students exceeded the total number of post-primary students at school within that Gaeltacht by 28%. As grant qualifiers usually constitute very small minorities in Galltacht schools, it would depress the levels of grant performance were their host school populations to be added to the total populations of Gaeltacht schools. Indeed, it might be a case of depressing these levels still further insofar as there are unknown numbers of Galltacht residents (as well as unknown numbers of recent in-migrants) already included in the total populations of Gaeltacht schools.

Therefore, in the first instance, it is necessary to attempt to estimate the proportion of Gaeltacht-resident students who are old enough to apply for the grant, whether they attend Gaeltacht or non-Gaeltacht schools. This will now be done with the aid of data from the most recently published Census of Population, that of 1981. In addition to providing an alternative base for estimating grant performance to the Gaeltacht school-based measure used in this Report, the Census also provides its own measure of ability to speak Irish among this same cohort of Gaeltacht-resident students, based on the standard Census question on this topic.

We cannot assume that equal numbers of students from either side of the Gaeltacht boundary attend schools on the other side. However, assuming all those enrolled in Gaeltacht schools to be Gaeltacht residents allows us to estimate the *maximum* percentage of Gaeltacht-resident students at schools within their own Gaeltacht (Table 2.7). If this figure is below 100%, the difference is taken to be the minimum percentage of Gaeltacht residents attending schools outside that Gaeltacht. If it is above 100% (as in Cork), it indicates the minimum representation of Galltacht students in Gaeltacht schools.

TABLE 2.7: STUDENTS IN GAELTACHT SCHOOLS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL STUDENTS LIVING IN EACH GAELTACHT IN 1980/1.

COUNTY	DONEGAL	GALWAY	MAYO	KERRY	CORK	W'FORD	MEATH	TOTAL
	91%	70%	84%	83%	120%	74%	90%	83%

* Analysis based on fulltime primary and post-primary students aged 6^+, using a combination of school populations and Census data for 1980/1 (see below).

Table 2.7 suggests that at least 17% of all Gaeltacht students travel outside their own Gaeltacht to attend school, the vast majority, presumably, to attend non-Gaeltacht schools. The fact that this figure was as high as 30% in Galway seriously qualifies the superior grant performance in Galway Gaeltacht schools revealed in Table 2.6 (63% compared with 46% for the Gaeltacht as a whole).

Because Table 2.7 is partly based on Census data, it is not possible to distinguish between primary and second level students or to apply the findings to other years (see below). Despite these limitations however, the exercise highlights the importance of being able to relate area of residence to school attended, which cannot be done with the data at our disposal.

2.4 Grant performance and the Census

Given that grant performance scores in Table 2.6 and in Chapter Three of this Report are calculated with reference to the populations of Gaeltacht schools, it may help to use Census data as an alternative base on which to estimate grant performance. The Census allows us to include all students living in the Gaeltacht who were old enough to apply for the grant regardless of whether they attended Gaeltacht or Galltacht schools and regardless of whether they did or did not apply for the grant. It may also be instructive to compare this Census-based measure of grant performance with the percentage of the same cohort who were returned as being able to speak Irish in the Census language ability question.

The most up to date published Census data on this issue relate to 1981, which falls within the period covered in the present Report. The data on 'Irish speakers' published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) refer specifically to those who were returned in the Census of Population as being able to speak Irish. These returns are made by the 'Head of Household' who is charged with completing the Census form on behalf of all household members. It is not claimed that those so enumerated actually use Irish or that other household members have been consulted as to how they wished to be recorded. Nor does the Census schedule provide any guidance as to the criteria to be used for assessing such abilities.

2.4.1 Calculating the Census figures

The published census figures do not allow disaggregation of under six year olds, of primary, post-primary or other students, or the level or type of post-primary school attended. However, a combination of published and unpublished CSO data allows fairly reliable estimates to be made. Full details of the procedures and calculations used can be found in the Appendix at the end of this Chapter.

Table 10 in Volume 6 of the published Census series gives the number of 'Irish speakers' in each Gaeltacht who were aged three years and over and 'still (or not yet) at school, university, etc.'. The number of Irish speakers who were under six years of age was estimated by applying the percentage of Irish speakers among 3-4 year olds in each area (Census Table 8A) to all of those aged 3-5 in the same area (as reported in the unpublished small-area statistics). CSO special tabulations were then used to exclude those aged fifteen and over in fulltime education at other than primary and post-primary schools. Unfortunately, it was not possible to disaggregate primary from post-primary students among the remainder; so, while few if any over fifteen year olds were still at primary schools, we have no way of knowing how many of the under fifteen year olds were in post-primary schools. Therefore, primary and post-primary students have had to be aggregated for this exercise.

Using these Census estimates as a base for calculating grant performance, we find that the total number of grant qualifiers in 1980/81 accounted for 41% of all Gaeltacht-resident fulltime primary and post-primary students aged six and over. This ranged from 15% in Mayo to 56% in Kerry (Table 2.8).

TABLE 2.8: TWO MEASURES OF GRANT PERFORMANCE IN 1980/1 COMPARED:
(a) A CENSUS-BASED ESTIMATE, BEING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANT QUALIFIERS IN GAELTACHT + GALLTACHT SCHOOLS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL GAELTACHT-RESIDENT FULLTIME STUDENTS AGED 6^+ IN GAELTACHT & GALLTACHT SCHOOLS
AND (b) A SCHOOL-BASED ESTIMATE (AS IN TABLE 2.6) BEING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS EARNED IN GAELTACHT SCHOOLS ONLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL STUDENTS AGED 6^+ ATTENDING THESE GAELTACHT SCHOOLS.

	D'GAL	G'WAY	MAYO	KERRY	CORK	W'D	M'TH	TOTAL
CENSUS-BASED ESTIMATE	47%	47%	15%	56%	39%	34%	49%	41%
SCHOOL-BASED ESTIMATE (as Table 2.6)	48%	63%	16%	61%	32%	42%	38%	46%

NOTE: For full figures, see Appendix at end of Chapter.

These Census data include Gaeltacht residents attending Galltacht schools, and the total number of grant qualifiers may also include some legitimate applicants living outside the Gaeltacht. Ignoring these qualifications for the moment, it is significant that this measure of overall grant performance based on Census data is broadly compatible with Table 2.6 (reproduced in part in Table 2.8) which was based on Gaeltacht school populations provided by An Roinn Oideachais, less an estimated 18% too young to apply for the grant. In other words, the total number of primary and post-primary grant qualifiers in 1980/1 (whether they attended Gaeltacht or Galltacht schools) was equivalent to 41% of all *Gaeltacht-resident* fulltime students aged six years or older (again, regardless of whether they attended primary or post-primary Gaeltacht or Galltacht schools) as enumerated in the Census in April 1981; while grant qualifiers in *Gaeltacht schools only* accounted for 46% of all pupils aged six or over in *Gaeltacht* schools in January that year.

The figures for individual counties are also broadly comparable. The differences between the two scores are minimal in Donegal and Mayo (1%); they are also low in Kerry (5%), Cork (7%) and Waterford (8%). However, they are quite substantial in Meath (11%) and Galway (16%).

2.4.2 Comparing Primary and Post-primary Grant Performance

If we wish to compare the grant performance of primary pupils with that of second level students, we are obliged to restrict our base to the populations of schools within the Gaeltacht boundary estimated to be six years and older. This involves the exclusion of Gaeltacht students at Galltacht schools and the inclusion of Galltacht students at Gaeltacht schools, regardless of the numbers in either group who applied or qualified for the grant. As we have seen, this restriction of the analysis to Gaeltacht schools raises the overall average from 41% to 46%, ranging this time from 16% in Mayo to 63% in Galway. The overall figure of 46% is the same at both primary and second levels but the generally much higher numbers involved at primary level tend to influence the overall figure unduly. Thus, while the primary figures reflect the overall figures, ranging from 19% in Mayo to 58% in Galway, the post-primary figures range from 98% in Waterford, with its single second level Gaeltacht school, to zero in Meath, where there is no second level school within the Gaeltacht boundary. These are the two smallest Gaeltachtaí however - so small in fact that they are bound to be difficult to relate in any meaningful way to the much larger Gaeltachtaí.

Galway and Donegal are the two most populous Gaeltachtaí. At primary level, an identical number of grant qualifiers attended Gaeltacht schools (1734, or 98% of all primary grants paid in each county). However, as enrollment in Galway Gaeltacht primary schools was somewhat lower than in Donegal (3000 : 3460) grant performance was higher in Galway Gaeltacht primary schools than in Donegal (58% : 50%). At second level, enrollment in Galway Gaeltacht schools was even lower vis-a-vis Donegal (953 : 1603) yet more grants were earned in these Galway schools than in Donegal, with grant performance in Galway Gaeltacht schools twice as high as in Donegal (80% : 42%). How can this be explained?

The first point to note is that the number of Gaeltacht-resident fulltime primary and second level students aged six and over in Galway and Donegal were quite similar according to our Census-based calculations (5646 : 5569). However, the total enrollment aged six and over attending Gaeltacht schools accounted for only 70% of this cohort in Galway compared with 91% in Donegal (see Table 2.7). This suggests that a much higher percentage of Galway Gaeltacht students attended Galltacht schools than their Donegal counterparts.

It is true that a significantly higher percentage of Donegal second level *grant qualifiers* attended non-Gaeltacht schools than in Galway (22% : 13% - see Table 2.5). However, it is significant that 70% of grant qualifiers in Donegal Galltacht schools were concentrated in two schools, in each of which they constituted over 10% of total enrollment, whereas in Galway, grant earners were dispersed among a greater number of Galltacht schools in which they formed an insignificant proportion of total enrollment. Therefore, part of the explanation may lie not simply in the proportion of Gaeltacht students who attend non-Gaeltacht schools but in the extent to which these cluster in significant numbers in these non-Gaeltacht schools.

Moreover, returning to our Census calculations, the percentage of grant qualifiers among Gaeltacht students in Galltacht schools (primary and second level combined) was five times higher in Donegal than in Galway (46% : 9%). This suggests that while Galway Gaeltacht schools have higher percentages of grant qualifiers than Donegal Gaeltacht schools, a much higher proportion of Galway Gaeltacht residents than their Donegal counterparts either do not apply for or fail to qualify for the grant, a fact that is hidden by their attendance at non-Gaeltacht schools.

Of course, another line of explanation for the superior grant performance in Galway Gaeltacht schools compared with Donegal might involve the proportion of Galltacht-resident students attending these schools. However, to pursue this further would require detailed data on school catchment areas which we do not possess.

2.4.3 Grant performance compared with Census-claimed ability to speak Irish

Table 2.9 compares the overall grant performance score for 1980/1 among Gaeltacht-resident primary and post-primary students (aged six and over, regardless of where they attend school) with the percentage of the *same cohort* who were claimed in the 1981 Census to be able to speak Irish. This suggests that the number of Gaeltacht residents aged six-plus in full-time primary and second level education who successfully applied for the £10 grant was only half the number who were claimed to be able to speak Irish in the Census that year (41% : 83%). This ranged from one fifth in Mayo to four fifths in Meath.

TABLE 2.9: GRANT PERFORMANCE IN 1980/1, USING 1981 CENSUS-BASED ESTIMATES OF GAELTACHT RESIDENTS AGED 6^+ AND ENROLLED AS FULLTIME STUDENTS IN PRIMARY AND SECOND LEVEL GAELTACHT OR GALLTACHT SCHOOLS; COMPARED WITH THE PERCENTAGE OF THE SAME COHORT RETURNED AS IRISH SPEAKERS IN THE CENSUS

	D'GAL	G'WAY	MAYO	KERRY	CORK	W'D	M'TH	TOTAL
Grant qualifiers at Gaeltacht & Galltacht schools as a % of all Gaeltacht-resident students	47%	47%	15%	56%	39%	34%	49%	41%
Census 'Irish speakers' as a % of all Gaeltacht-resident students	83%	84%	74%	87%	91%	96%	62%	83%
Grant qualifiers at Gaeltacht & Galltacht schools as a % of all 'Irish speakers' in Census	57%	56%	19%	64%	43%	35%	79%	50%

NOTE: All data confined to fulltime primary and second level students aged 6^+, living in the Gaeltacht but not necessarily attending Gaeltacht schools. For full figures see Appendix at end of Chapter.

There are two main lines of explanation, either or both of which could help to explain these discrepancies. The first relates to the nature of the data being collected. It should be recalled of course that the Census merely asks if a person *can* speak Irish whereas the £10 Grant Scheme seeks to assess if this ability is commensurate with coming from a home where Irish is normally used. If this is so however, it would appear that large proportions of Gaeltacht Heads of Households share a tendency with large proportions of their Galltacht counterparts to rate school-going children, especially at post-primary level, as being able to speak Irish simply because they are in daily contact with the language at school (see Table 2.10).

TABLE 2.10: PERCENTAGE RETURNED AS IRISH SPEAKERS AMONG DIFFERENT COHORTS OF THE 3-19 AGE GROUP IN THE CENSUSES OF 1961, 1971 AND 1981 COMPARED WITH THE AVERAGE FOR THE TOTAL POPULATION AGED 3^+

	NATIONAL FIGURES			GAELTACHT ONLY		
AGE GROUP	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
3- 4	5.9	5.5	4.9	65.3	59.9	52.8
5- 9	28.5	27.6	27.8	82.9	81.0	73.3
10-14	52.0	50.6	50.8	90.5	88.4	83.4
15-19	50.5	51.5	51.0	90.7	88.3	83.4
TOTAL POPULATION	27.2	28.3	31.6	86.6	82.9	77.4

Source: Census of Population for relevant years.

The second line would suggest that many more potential applicants than is believed do not apply for assessment and/or that there is a very high proportion of failed applications. While we do not have the data to test this hypothesis, it is unlikely to explain a discrepancy of the magnitude involved here.

2.4.4 Census data versus school populations as bases of grant performance

In any case, when the primary and post-primary data were aggregated, grant performance based on *Gaeltacht school populations* was significantly higher in Galway than in Donegal schools (63% : 48%). Almost identical figures resulted when grant earners in Galltacht schools were substituted for equal numbers of notional non-qualifiers in Gaeltacht schools (see Table 2.6). However, when the calculations of grant performance were based on the Census data relating to *Gaeltacht-resident* school-goers rather than on the populations of Gaeltacht schools (Table 2.8), the difference in grant performance between the two Gaeltachtaí was obliterated, whether the Galltacht grants are excluded (44% : 43%) or included (47% : 47%).

Which set of figures then, the school populations or the Census data, are of most value as a basis for calculating grant performance? Given that these two counties generally share three quarters of all grants fairly evenly between them (37% each in 1980/1); that almost identical percentages of school-goers in both of these counties were returned as Irish speakers in the 1981 Census (84%, 83%); and that grant qualifiers in both counties constituted almost identical percentages of these Census-claimed Irish speakers (56%, 57%); it is highly tempting to accept the Census data, for their neatness and their comprehensiveness. The problem with this would be that the richness of the analysis afforded by school population data relating to primary/post-primary and Gaeltacht/Galltacht distinctions would be lost. It would also be impossible insofar as the Census is conducted at five to ten year intervals and becomes rapidly outdated and unreliable.

Nevertheless, the degree of compatibility between the proportion of Gaeltacht residents at Gaeltacht *or* Galltacht schools who earned the grant as measured by the Census (41%) and the proportion of the total population of *Gaeltacht* schools who earned the grant as measured by official school populations (46%) and by Harris and Murtagh (38% - 48%) is encouraging. It would appear therefore, that every effort should be made to integrate the data on the £10 Grant Scheme with data collected in the Census. The prospects for this happening are discussed in Chapter Four.

2.5 Conclusion

It will be clear from the foregoing discussion that a number of operational assumptions and some technical 'rules of thumb' have had to be adopted in order to proceed with the analysis. Given that the main objective of the £10 Grant Scheme is home use of Irish, grant performance should ideally be based on those living in a particular area who are entitled to apply for the grant, regardless of where they attend school. As we have seen, however, the data at our disposal do not allow us to precisely determine the proportion of students in a local area (or even a given school) who (a) are old enough to apply for the grant, or (b) are attending schools on the far side of the Gaeltacht boundary from their home address. Moreover, there is clearly a problem with regard to those Gaeltacht schools which, though technically in the Gaeltacht, are de facto, non-Gaeltacht schools. Therefore, in Chapter Three of this report, area grant performance scores will refer to grant qualifiers in Gaeltacht schools as a percentage of the total population enrolled in those schools, with data on Galltacht schools where grants were earned and data on Gaeltacht schools where no grants were earned during our period shown separately. Consequently, even though the study is based solely on school units, problems of interpretation remain.

APPENDIX TABLE: MEASURES OF GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH GAELTACHT IN 1980/81 BASED ON SCHOOL POPULATION DATA AND CENSUS POPULATION DATA

	D'GAL	G'WAY	MAYO	KERRY	CORK	W'D	M'TH	TOTAL
SCHOOL DATA								
PRIMARY SECTOR:								
1. Gaeltacht school grants	1734	1734	253	470	158	92	70	4511
2. Galltacht school grants	40	31		9				80
3. TOTAL PRIMARY GRANTS	1774	1765	253	479	158	92	70	4591
4. Population: Gaeltacht schools	4220	3658	1665	1053	679	337	226	11838
5. Less est. 18% under 6 yr. olds	3460	3000	1365	863	557	276	185	9706
POST-PRIMARY SECTOR:								
6. Gaeltacht school grants	674	767	171	360	167	42	0	2181
7. Galltacht school grants	194	113	15	72	8	13	31	446
8. TOTAL POST-PRIMARY GRANTS	868	880	186	432	175	55	31	2627
9. Population: Gaeltacht schools	1603	953	1223	500	455	43	0	4777
PRIMARY + POST-PRIMARY:								
10. Gaeltacht school grants	2408	2501	424	830	325	134	70	6692
11. Galltacht school grants	234	144	15	81	8	13	31	526
12. TOTAL GRANTS	2642	2645	439	911	333	147	101	7218
13. Population: Gaeltacht schools	5823	4611	2888	1553	1134	380	226	16615
14. Less est. under 6 year olds	5063	3953	2588	1363	1012	319	185	14483
CENSUS DATA								
15. IRISH SPEAKERS aged 3+ still/not yet in fulltime education	5606	5951	2563	1711	928	476	141	17376
16. -IRISH SPEAKERS aged 3-5 (% of 3-4 year old Irish speakers applied to local population aged 3-5)	-851	-865	-231	-220	-130	-48	-3	-2348
17. -IRISH SPEAKERS aged 15+ in fulltime education at other than post-primary schools	-123	-345	-55	-66	-33	-14	-10	-646
18. =IRISH SPEAKERS aged 6+ in fulltime education at primary/post-primary schools	4632	4741	2277	1425	765	414	128	14382
19. TOTAL POPULATION aged 3+ still/not yet in fulltime education	7153	7749	3888	2120	1073	520	261	22764
20. -Those aged 3-5	-1404	-1626	-735	-402	-192	-73	-39	-4471
-Third level students etc.	-180	-477	-84	-79	-39	-14	-16	-889
21. =TOTAL POPULATION aged 6+ in fulltime education at primary/post-primary schools	5569	5646	3069	1639	842	433	206	17404
SCHOOL & CENSUS DATA								
22. Gaeltacht pupils attending Galltacht schools (Row 21 minus Row 14)	506	1693	481	276	-170	114	21	2921
23. Gaeltacht attenders at Galltacht schools who did not qualify for the Grant (Row 22 minus Row 11)	272	1549	466	195	162	101	-10	2395
PERCENTAGES:								
A. Row 1 as % of Row 3	98%	98%	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%	98%
B. Row 1 as % of Row 5	50%	58%	19%	54%	28%	33%	38%	46%
C. Row 6 as % of Row 8	78%	87%	92%	83%	95%	76%	0%	83%
D. Row 6 as % of Row 9	42%	80%	14%	72%	37%	98%	NA	46%
E. Row 10 as % of Row 12	91%	95%	97%	91%	98%	91%	69%	93%
F. Row 10 as % of Row 14	48%	63%	16%	61%	32%	42%	38%	46%
G. Row 10 as % of Row 18	52%	53%	19%	58%	42%	32%	55%	46%
H. Row 10 as % of Row 21	43%	44%	14%	51%	39%	31%	34%	38%
I. Row 11 as % of Row 22	46%	9%	3%	29%		11%		18%
J. Row 12 as % of Row 18	57%	56%	20%	64%	43%	35%	79%	50%
K. Row 12 as % of Row 21	47%	47%	15%	56%	39%	34%	49%	41%
L. Row 18 as % of Row 21	83%	84%	74%	87%	91%	96%	62%	83%

Chapter Three

Grant Numbers and Grant Performance 1973/4 - 1983/4

3.0 Introduction

This chapter analyses trends in *grant numbers* (that is, the number of grant qualifiers in a given school or group of schools) and in *grant performance* (that is, grant qualifiers expressed as a percentage of the total populations of the schools they attend) for the period 1973/4 to 1983/4. It is in two sections. The first section deals with overall trends for the Gaeltacht as a whole and with broad comparisons between counties and between groups of local schools within counties. The second section, which contains the bulk of the material, focuses in detail on local trends within each Gaeltacht county.

3.1 General Trends

This section opens with a brief description of overall trends in grant numbers and their distribution. The data are then summarised in a series of maps which provide a comprehensive overview of trends in grant numbers *and* grant performance for the five larger Gaeltacht counties and their subareas. The section concludes with a brief summary outline of the main trends in grant performance over the period covered by the Report.

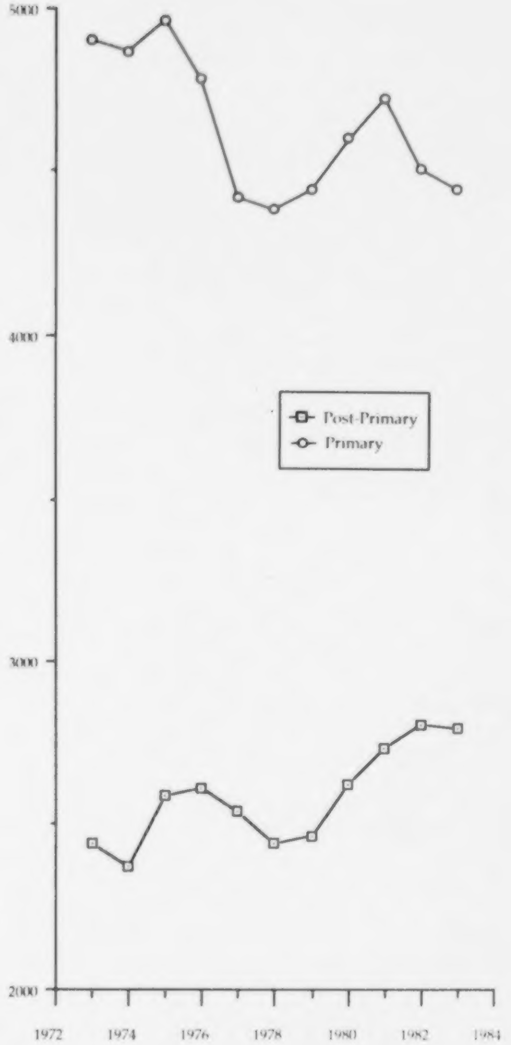
3.1.1 Grant numbers and their distribution

In the eleven year period covered by this report a total of almost 79,500 grants were paid out in respect of fulltime primary and post-primary school attenders. Grant numbers declined seriously in the late 1970s but soon reverted to their former level of 7200-7500 p.a. However, this was achieved by a rise in post-primary grants whereas primary grants, after a short rally, continued to decline. (See ***Figure 3.1***).

The annual number of grants was in the range 4350-5000 in the case of primary school pupils and 2350-2800 in the case of post-primary students. The highest combined grants total recorded was in 1975/6 (7559) and the lowest was only three years later in 1978/9 (6831).

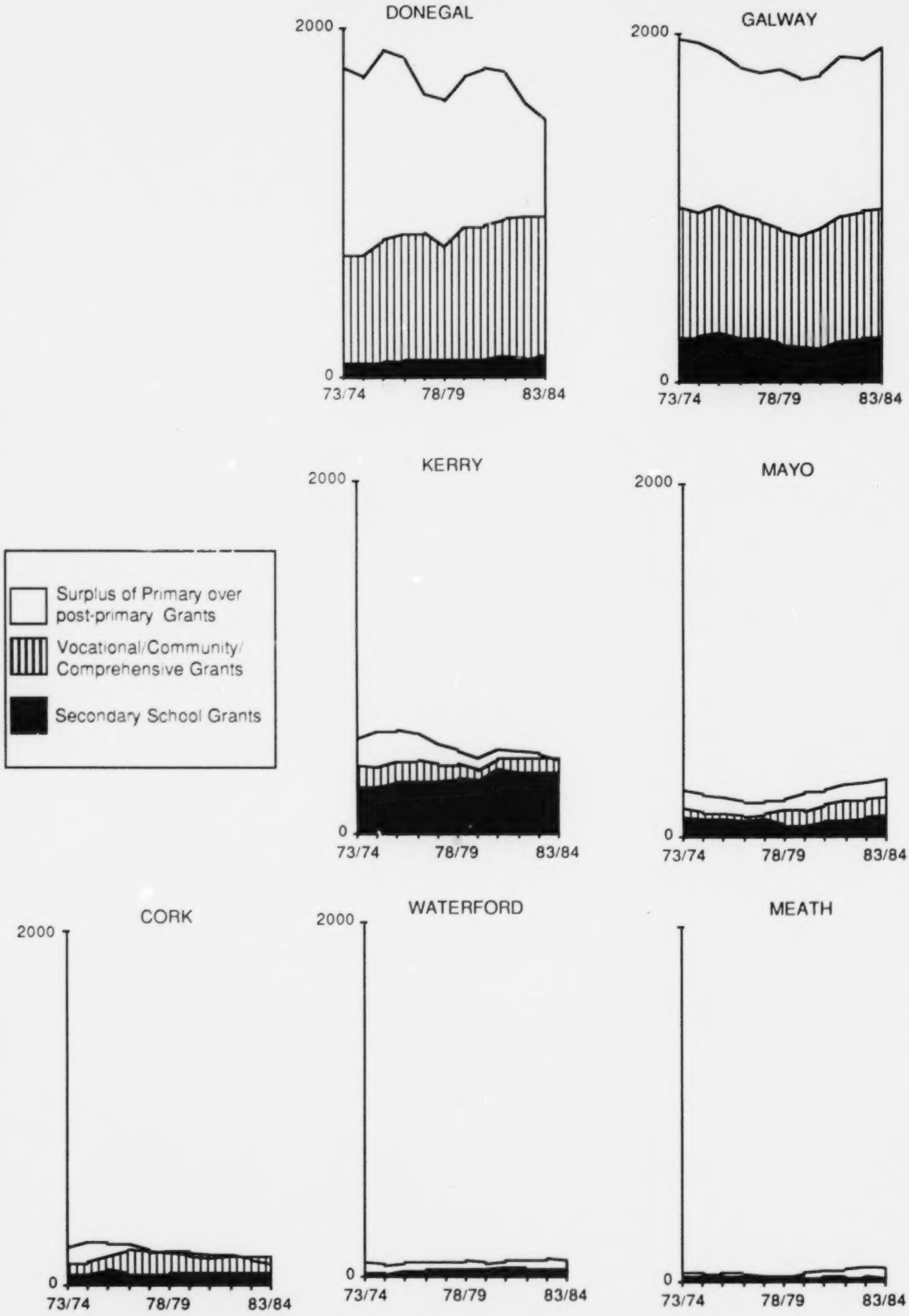
The overall distribution of grants between counties was fairly stable with three quarters of the grants being fairly evenly shared between Galway (39%) and Donegal (35%) and the remainder going to Kerry (12%), Mayo (6%), Cork (5%), Waterford (2%) and Meath (1%). (See ***Figure 3.2***).

Figure 3.1: Graph showing total Annual Number of Grants Paid 1973/4-1983/4 in respect of (a) Primary and (b) Post-Primary School Attenders.



Note: For full figures, see the Appendix at the end of this Chapter.

FIGURE 3.2. NUMBER OF GRANTS PAID 1973/4 - 1983/4 BY COUNTY AND SCHOOL SECTOR



Note: For full figures, see the Appendix at the end of this Chapter.

Sharp annual fluctuations, many of a perplexingly large magnitude, occurred in every county during our period. Not surprisingly, the more populous counties recorded the greatest numerical changes while the smaller populations recorded the greatest percentage shifts, e.g. the 10% increase in Donegal grants in 1975/6 was six times greater in numerical terms than Waterford's 54% increase (250 to 42). The sharpness of the annual fluctuations and the differences in scale between Gaeltachtaí make overall trends based on annual comparisons between counties difficult to summarize in a meaningful way. To counteract this, the general analysis in this section has been kept short and is based on average figures for the early 1970s (1973/4-1975/6); the later 1970s (1976/7-1980/1); and the early 1980s (1981/2-1983/4).

TABLE 3.1: AVERAGE NUMBER OF £10 GRANTS PAID IN EACH GAELTACHT COUNTY BY SCHOOL SECTOR.

		EARLY 1970s 1973/4 - - 1975/6 (3 years)		LATE 1970s 1976/7 - - 1980/1 (5 years)		EARLY 1980s 1981/2 - - 1983/4 (3 years)		TOTAL 1973/4 - - 1983/4 (11 years)	
DONEGAL	Average Grants p.a.	2520	100%	2534	100%	2512	100%	2524	100%
	of which Primary	1792	71%	1709	67%	1596	63%	1700	67%
	Secondary	81	3%	99	4%	116	5%	99	4%
	Voc./Com.	647	26%	726	29%	800	32%	725	29%
GALWAY	Average Grants p.a.	2944	100%	2674	100%	2862	100%	2799	100%
	of which Primary	1944	66%	1777	67%	1884	66%	1852	66%
	Secondary	267	9%	222	8%	240	8%	239	9%
	Voc./Com.	733	25%	675	25%	738	26%	708	25%
MAYO	Average Grants p.a.	390	100%	376	100%	531	100%	422	100%
	of which Primary	242	62%	227	61%	311	59%	254	60%
	Secondary	106	27%	85	22%	117	22%	99	24%
	Voc./Com.	42	11%	64	17%	103	19%	69	16%
KERRY	Average Grants p.a.	965	100%	891	100%	870	100%	905	100%
	of which Primary	573	59%	490	55%	442	51%	500	55%
	Secondary	277	29%	316	35%	347	40%	313	35%
	Voc./Com.	115	12%	85	10%	81	9%	92	10%
CORK	Average Grants p.a.	377	100%	379	100%	315	100%	361	100%
	of which Primary	234	62%	190	50%	149	47%	191	53%
	Secondary	76	20%	74	20%	74	24%	74	21%
	Voc./Com.	67	18%	115	30%	92	29%	96	26%
WATER--FORD	Average Grants p.a.	101	100%	133	100%	143	100%	127	100%
	of which Primary	77	77%	86	65%	95	67%	86	68%
	Secondary	24	23%	46	35%	47	33%	40	32%
	Voc./Com.	--	--	1	--	1	--	1	--
MEATH	Average Grants p.a.	85	100%	79	100%	106	100%	88	100%
	of which Primary	51	59%	47	59%	82	78%	57	65%
	Secondary	23	28%	23	29%	12	11%	20	23%
	Voc./Com.	11	13%	9	12%	12	11%	11	12%
TOTAL	Average Grants p.a.	7381	100%	7066	100%	7338	100%	7227	100%
	of which Primary	4912	66%	4527	64%	4559	62%	4641	64%
	Secondary	854	12%	864	12%	952	13%	886	12%
	Voc./Com.	1615	22%	1675	24%	1827	25%	1700	24%
AVERAGE ANNUAL SURPLUS OF:									
Primary	> Post-Primary	2443		1988		1780			
Public	> Private Post-Prim.	761		811		875			

NOTE: For full annual figures, see the Appendix at the end of this Chapter.

A comparison of the average number of grants paid in each county in the early 1970s with the number paid in the early 1980s (Table 3.1) shows a substantial rise in the smaller counties of Waterford (+42%), Mayo (+36%) and Meath (+25%); a fairly substantial drop in Cork (-16%) and Kerry (-10%); and only a minor drop in Galway (-3%) and Donegal (-0.3%). In Waterford and Mayo, grants increased at both primary and post-primary levels but in Meath it remains to be seen if the rise at primary level will help to reverse the fall at second level. The situation is less hopeful in three of the four counties where overall grant numbers fell insofar as the primary base is being eroded.

This is especially serious in Cork and Kerry where, by the early 1980s, post-primary grants had equalled or surpassed the number of primary grants; but also in Donegal where the average number of primary grants had fallen by almost 200 p.a. (the corresponding figures for Cork and Kerry were 85 and 131 respectively but because of the smaller baseline were proportionately much more serious). Only in Galway did the primary component hold its share of total grants at the early 1970s level. It should be noted, incidentally, that a comparison between the early 1980s and the *later* 1970s would show Galway and Mayo in an even more 'improving' light as these two counties reached their nadir during this middle period. Concomitantly, the improvement in Waterford would not be nearly as impressive nor the decline in Kerry as disquieting.

TABLE 3.2: RATIO OF GRANTS PAID BY SCHOOL SECTOR

	No. of Primary level grants for each post-primary grant				No. of Voc./Comm./Comp. grants for each Secondary schl. grant			
	EARLY 1970s	LATER 1970s	EARLY 1980s	TOTAL PERIOD	EARLY 1970s	LATER 1970s	EARLY 1980s	TOTAL PERIOD
DONEGAL	2.46	2.07	1.74	2.06	7.99	7.34	6.90	7.32
GALWAY	1.94	1.98	1.93	1.93	2.75	3.05	3.07	2.96
MAYO	1.63	1.53	1.42	1.51	0.39	0.75	0.88	0.70
KERRY	1.46	1.22	1.03	1.23	0.42	0.27	0.23	0.29
CORK	1.64	1.01	0.90	1.12	0.88	1.56	1.24	1.30
WATERFORD	3.25	1.84	2.01	2.10	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02
MEATH	1.46	1.47	3.46	1.84	0.49	0.40	0.97	0.55
TOTAL	1.99	1.78	1.64	1.79	1.89	1.94	1.92	1.92

Table 3.2 summarizes Table 3.1 by means of ratios. Overall, the ratio of primary to post-primary grants fell from 2:1 in the early 1970s, to 1.6:1 in the early 1980s. This narrowing of the gap is clearly evident in all counties except Galway, where there was relative stability, and Meath, where primary grants increased dramatically in the 1980s. Within the post-primary sector, the ratio between public school grants and private secondary school grants was constant at the overall level (ca. 1.9:1) but changed substantially in almost every county, albeit in different directions. In Mayo and Meath, for example, a marked shift towards public schools almost produced parity between sectors, whereas in Kerry the dominance of private school students intensified. In some counties, one sector increased at a faster rate than the other while in other counties one sector increased at the expense of the other. In addition, school closures, amalgamations and changes of status (e.g. from secondary to vocational) influenced trends within counties. Such variations, together with the differences in scale between counties already mentioned, highlight the limitations of inter-county comparisons and underline the necessity for more localized analysis.

Maps 3.1 to 3.8 provide a concise overview of the grant situation within each of the five largest Gaeltacht counties during our eleven year period. (Meath and Waterford are not shown due to their small size). There are separate maps for the primary and post-primary sectors. The *primary* schools are aggregated into subareas in this overview section but are shown individually in Section 3.2 (Maps 3.9 to 3.21) where each subarea is dealt with in greater detail. As the much smaller number of *post-primary* schools are shown individually in this section, the same set of post-primary maps can be used throughout the chapter. This separate primary/post-primary presentation is mainly for readability purposes but also because students from a given set of primary schools do not necessarily proceed to the nearest post-primary school. Each map contains a set of bar-charts showing the annual number of grants earned in local schools from 1973/4 to 1983/4 (reading from left to right). The three figures below the bar-charts are summary (average) grant performance percentages for each of the three subperiods used in this report, viz. the early 1970s (1973/4-1975/6); the later 1970s (1976/7-1980/1) and the early 1980s (1981/2-1983/4). These also read from left to right and are taken from the relevant subarea tables in the text. On Maps 3.1 to 3.8, the subarea bar-charts for primary schools include grants earned in local Gaeltacht *and* Galltacht schools but the figures below them refer only to the average grant performance in *Gaeltacht* schools; that is, they are the percentages of all attenders at Gaeltacht schools within each subarea who qualified for the grant. On the post-primary maps, where the number of grants earned in (groups of) Galltacht schools justifies visual presentation, this is done; but in most cases, a summary figure (e.g. <5%) indicates their maximum representation among their host school populations during any of the three subperiods.

Trends in grant performance do not automatically reflect the trends in grant numbers shown in the bar-charts. Falling grant numbers may simply reflect falling enrollment in local schools while rising grant numbers may be outpaced by an even faster rise in the local school population. Consequently, the figures below the bar-charts are more important than the bar-charts themselves in evaluating the direction of grant performance trends.

A note on scaling: Each of the 21 maps in this Chapter shows the scales used to depict both distance and grant numbers. On Maps 3.1 to 3.8 inclusive, the ***distance scales*** vary *between* counties but are identical on the primary and post-primary maps for a *given* county; by contrast, the ***grant number scales*** are different on the primary and post-primary maps but are identical for each level *between* counties. On Maps 3.9 to 3.21 inclusive, both the distance scales and the grant number scales are identical.

(For a note on the spelling of placenames, see the introduction to Appendix A).

Supplementing the diachronic trend data in the maps, Table 3.3 offers a concise synchronic overview of the grant performance situation in Gaeltacht primary and post-primary schools in the early 1980s. Although arranged in the same geographical groupings and based on the same data as the rightmost percentages below the bar-charts, all primary schools have been accounted for individually.

TABLE 3.3: AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE IN GAELTACHT PRIMARY SCHOOLS (AND IN PARENTHESES, POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS) BY COUNTY AND BY COUNTY SUB-AREA IN THE EARLY 1980s (1981/2 - 1983/4)

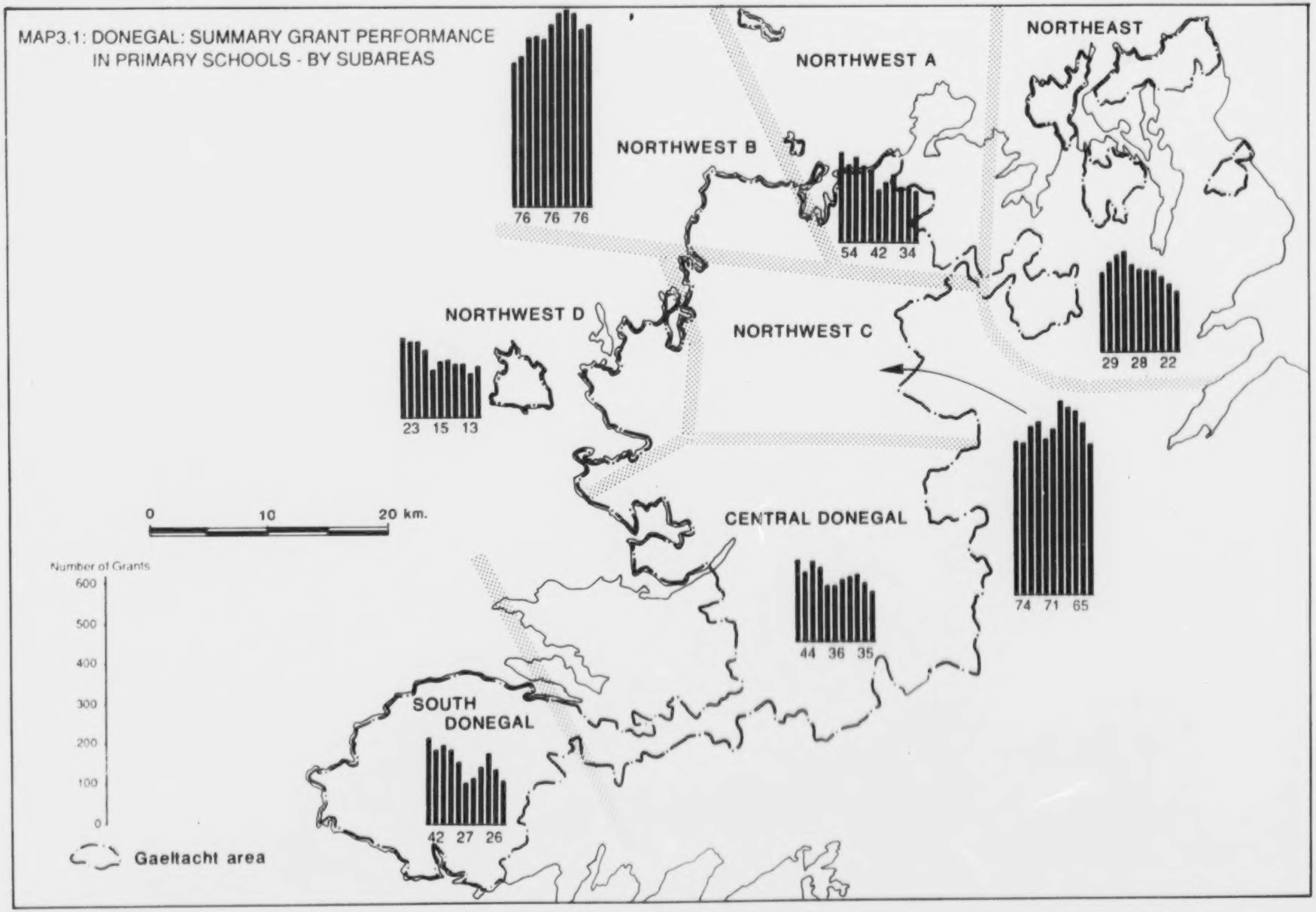
COUNTY	TOTAL	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AT EACH LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE					
County sub-areas	SCHOOLS	>75%	51-75%	26-50%	<26%	>80%	<10%.
DONEGAL	40 (5)	4 (1)	14 (1)	6 (2)	16 (1)	1 (1)	10 .
Northeast	9 (0)	. .	1 .	1 .	7 .	. .	5 .
Northwest A	3 (1)	. .	2 .	1 (1)	. .	. .	. .
Northwest B	5 (1)	2 (1)	3 .	. .	. .	. (1)	. .
Northwest C	6 (0)	1 .	5 .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Northwest D	7 (1)	. .	. .	3 .	4 (1)	. .	3 .
Central	6 (1)	1 .	2 (1)	. .	3 .	1 .	2 .
South	4 (1)	. .	1 .	1 (1)	2 .	. .	. .
GALWAY	44 (7)	17 (5)	14 (2)	3 .	10 .	11 (4)	8 .
Árainn	5 (1)	2 (1)	3 .	. .	. .	2 (1)	. .
Ceantar na nOileán	7 (0)	5 .	2 .	. .	. .	2 .	. .
Carna	6 (1)	4 (1)	1 .	1 .	. .	3 .	. .
Ros Muc- C'rú. Rua	6 (2)	4 (2)	2 .	. .	. .	3 (2)	. .
Ros An Mhíl-Bearna	7 (2)	2 (1)	3 (1)	1 .	1 .	1 (1)	1 .
East Galway	5 (0)	. .	. .	. .	5 .	. .	4 .
Moycullen Area	3 (0)	. .	1 .	1 .	1 .	. .	1 .
Joyce Country	5 (1)	. .	2 (1)	. .	3 .	. .	2 .
MAYO	30 (6)	. .	4 (1)	. .	26 (5)	. .	18 (1)
Belmullet A	6 (2)	. .	1 .	. .	5 (2)	. .	4 (1)
Belmullet B	7 (1)	. .	1 (1)	. .	6 .	. .	6 .
Belmullet C	4 (0)	. .	. .	. .	4 .	. .	3 .
Corrán-Acaill	9 (2)	. .	. .	. .	9 (2)	. .	5 .
Loch Measc Area	4 (1)	. .	2 .	. .	2 (1)	. .	. .
KERRY	16 (4)	2 (1)	5 (2)	5 (1)	4 .	1 .	. .
Corca Dhuibhne A	1 (1)	. .	. .	1 (1)	. .	. .	. .
Corca Dhuibhne B	3 (0)	2 .	1 .	. .	. .	1 .	. .
Corca Dhuibhne C	4 (0)	. .	3 .	1 .	. .	. .	. .
Corca Dhuibhne D	2 (3)	. (1)	. (2)	. .	2 .	. .	. .
Corca Dhuibhne E	2 (0)	. .	1 .	1 .	. .	. .	. .
Uíbh Ráthach	4 (0)	. .	. .	2 .	2 .	. .	. .
CORK	9 (3)	. .	2 (2)	5 (1)	2 .	. .	1 .
WATERFORD	3 (1)	. (1)	1 .	1 .	1 .	. (1)	1 .
MEATH	2 (0)	1 .	. .	1 .	. .	. .	. .
GRAND TOTAL	144(26)	24 (8)	40 (7)	21 (5)	59 (6)	13 (6)	38 (1)

3.1.2 Summary of Trends in Grant Performance

Regardless of trends in grant numbers, the overall trend in grant performance in both primary and post-primary Gaeltacht schools was one of decline to, or stability at, levels far below those one would expect in a vibrant Gaeltacht. Taking account of under six year old primary pupils and of a nominal number enrolled in Gaeltacht primary and post-primary schools who were not entitled to apply for the grant for other reasons, we would expect a constant grant performance of at least 80% at primary level and at least 95% at second level.

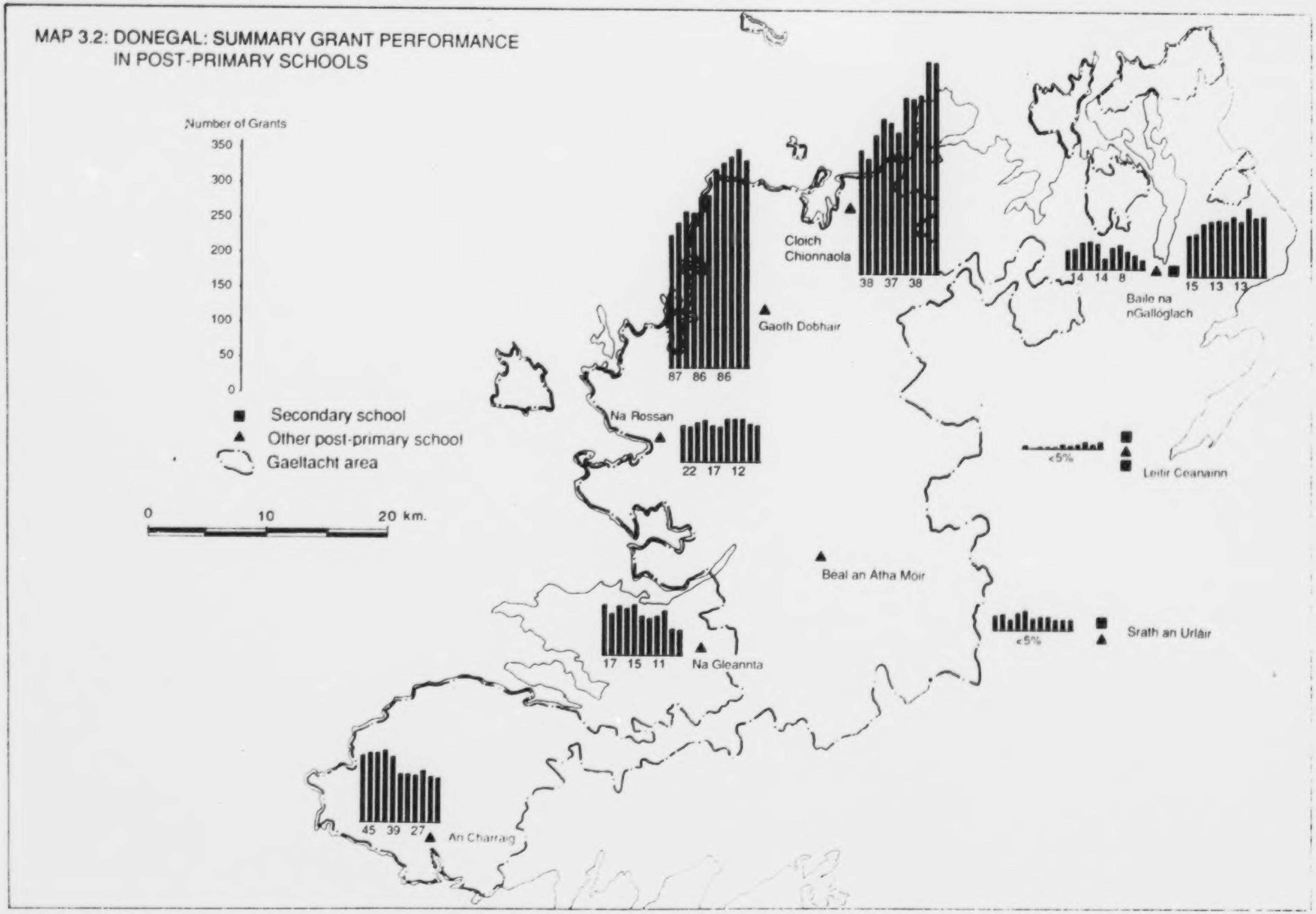
Apart from a few widely separated schools, no sub-area within the Gaeltacht reached these levels at any point during our period. The only sub-areas where local groups of *primary* schools managed to remain at or above 75% throughout our period were the extreme northwest of Donegal, the two Galway island groups of Ceantar na nOileán and Árainn, and the area around Smeirbhic in northwest Kerry; and the only areas where *post-primary* grant performance remained at or above 85% throughout our period were (again) the extreme northwest of Donegal, the two mainland schools adjacent to Ceantar na nOileán (there is no second level school on the islands themselves) and Árainn. These are all extremely isolated areas.

For reasons already stated, the bulk of the analysis has been included in the next section, which focuses in detail on the situation within each county. These detailed analyses will afford a fuller appreciation of the situation by subdividing the county into subareas based on groups of local schools. These subareas will be analysed in depth, identifying areas of decline, stability and growth, followed by a general summary of the situation in the county as a whole.

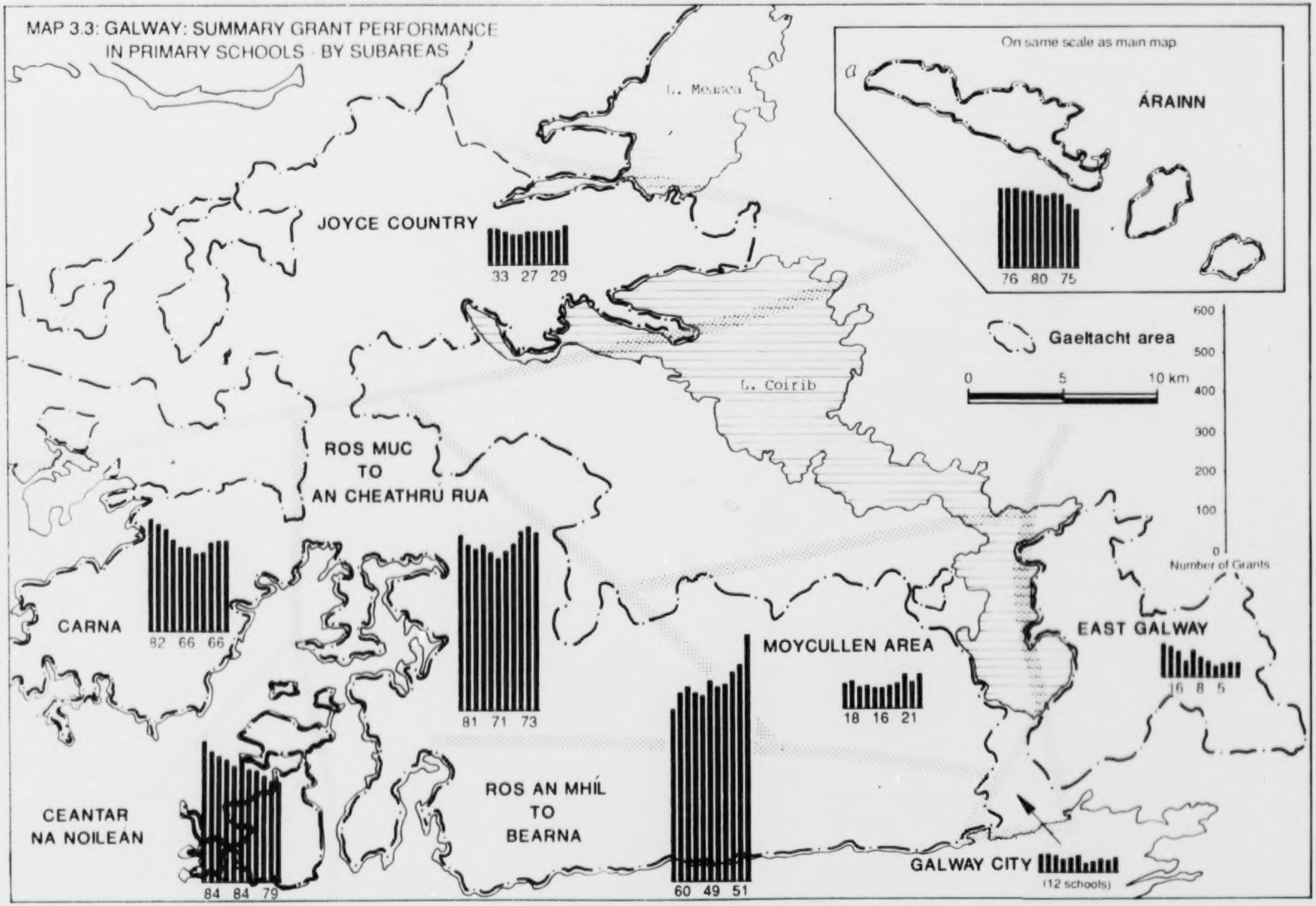


MAP3.1: DONEGAL: SUMMARY GRANT PERFORMANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS - BY SUBAREAS

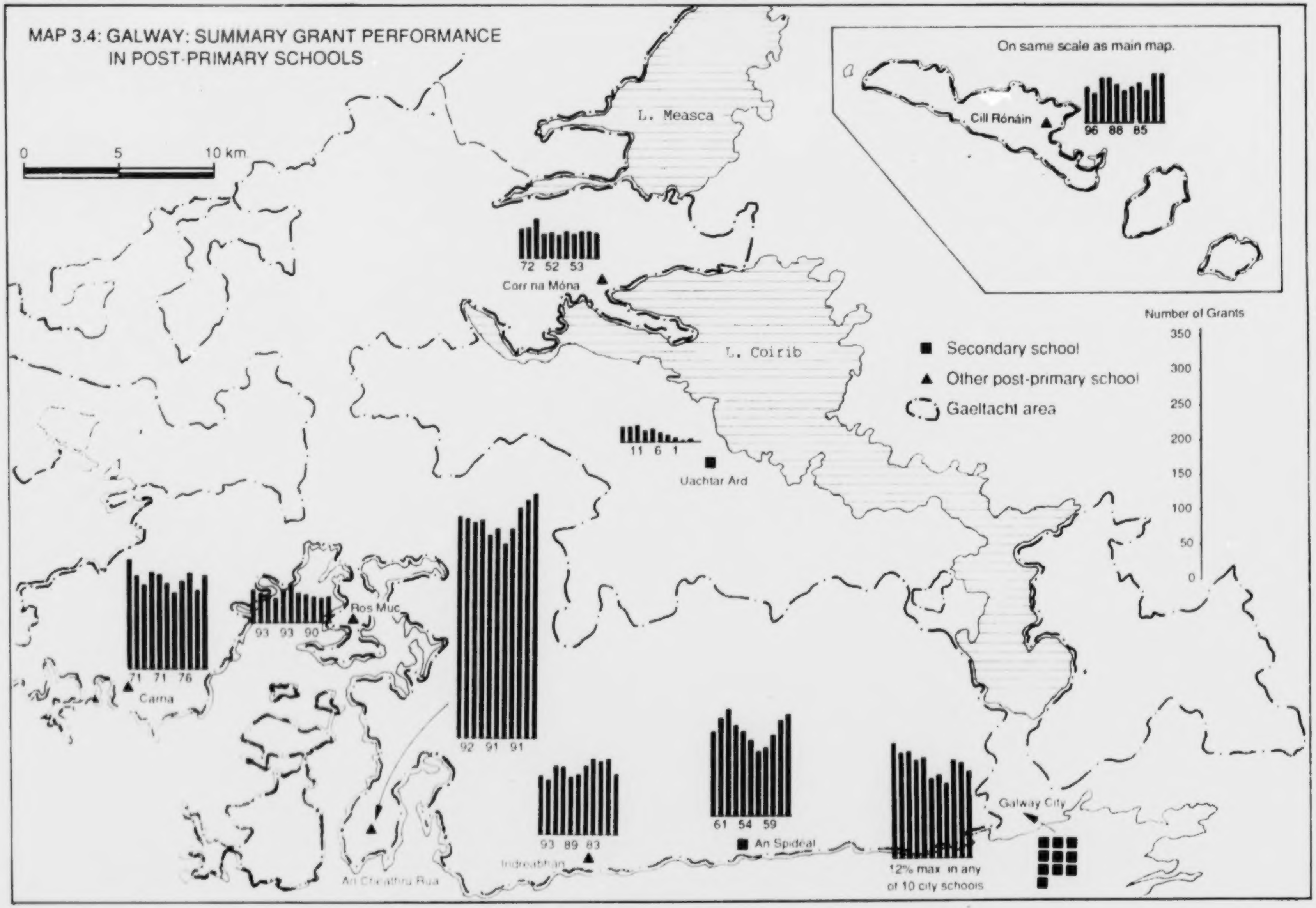
MAP 3.2: DONEGAL: SUMMARY GRANT PERFORMANCE IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS



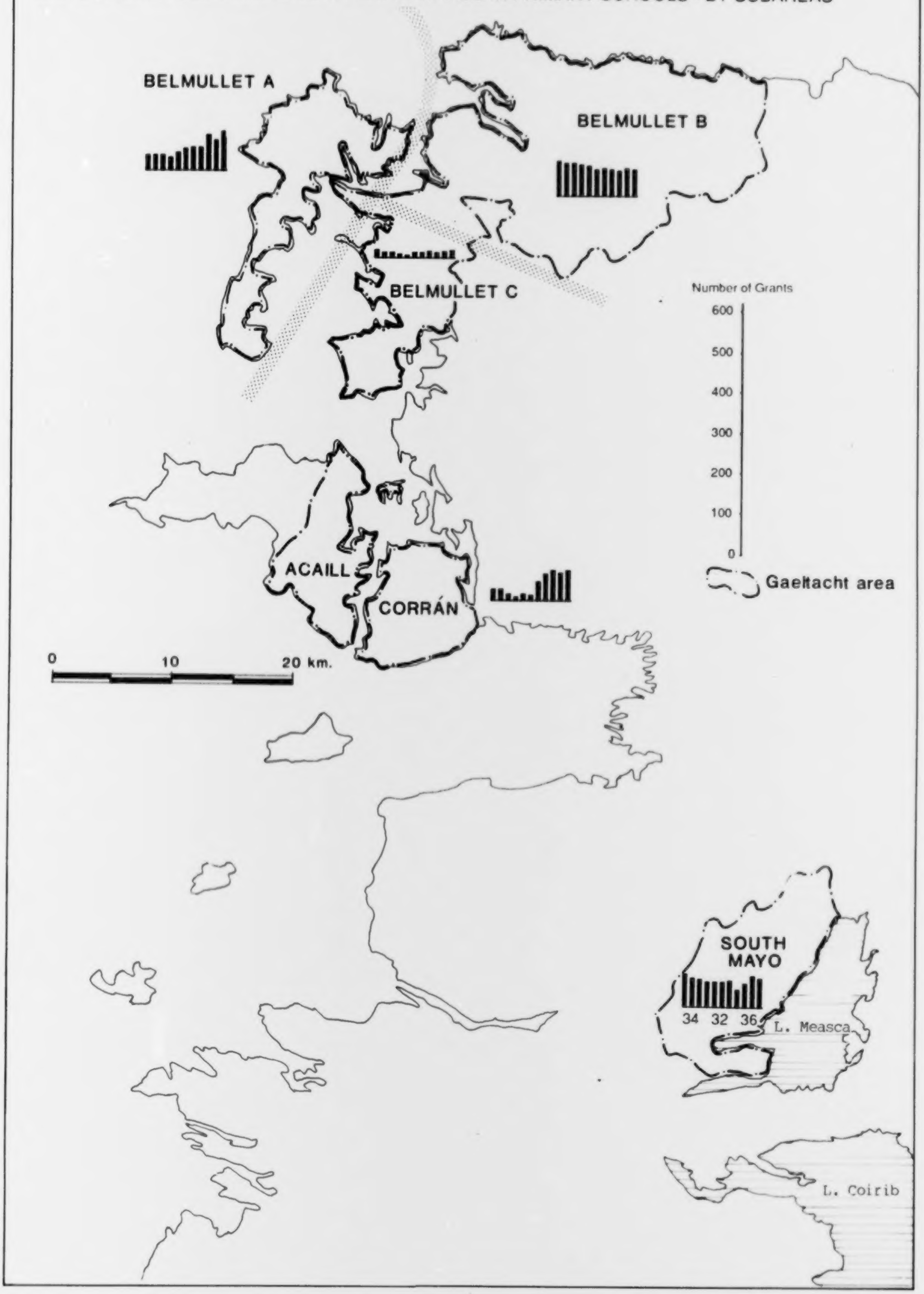
MAP 3.3: GALWAY: SUMMARY GRANT PERFORMANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS - BY SUBAREAS



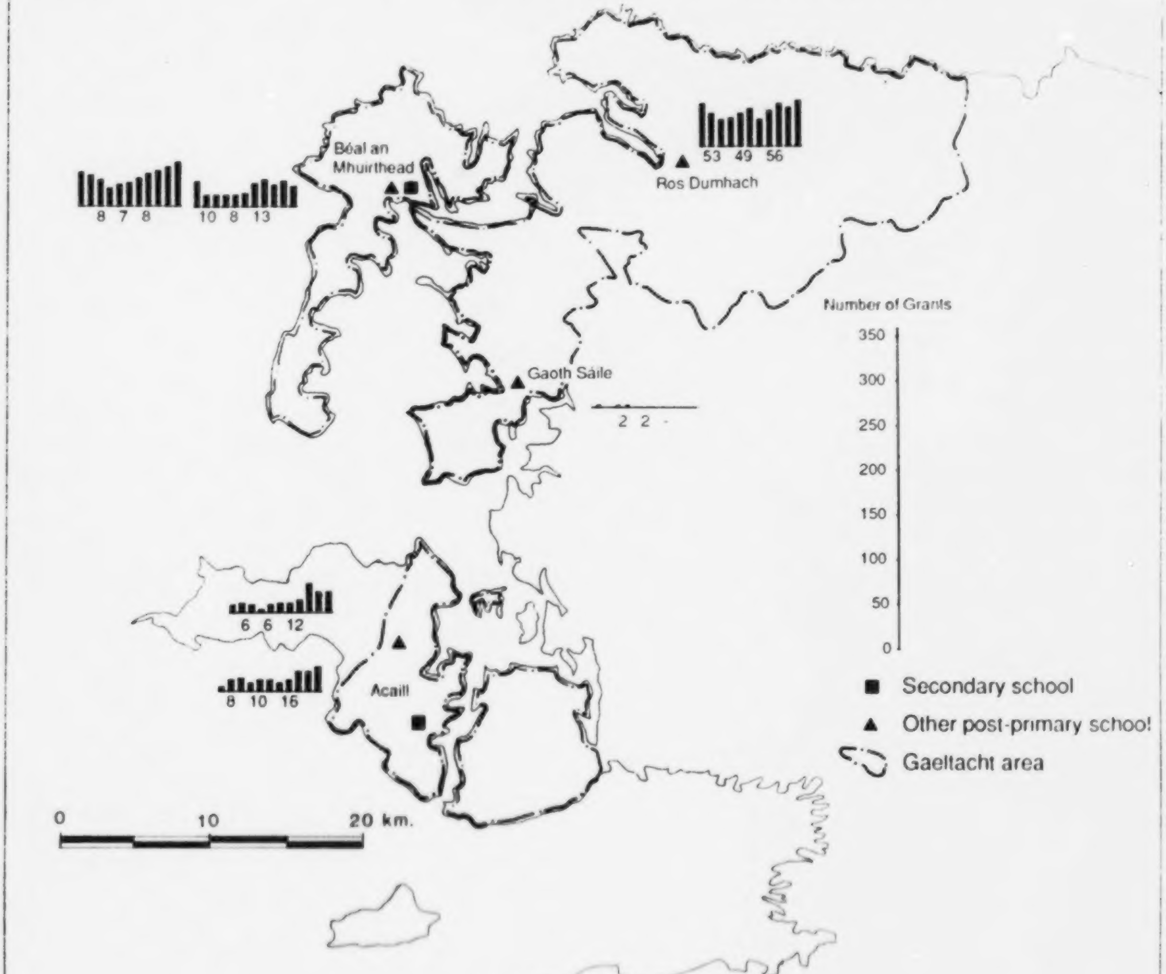
MAP 3.4: GALWAY: SUMMARY GRANT PERFORMANCE IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

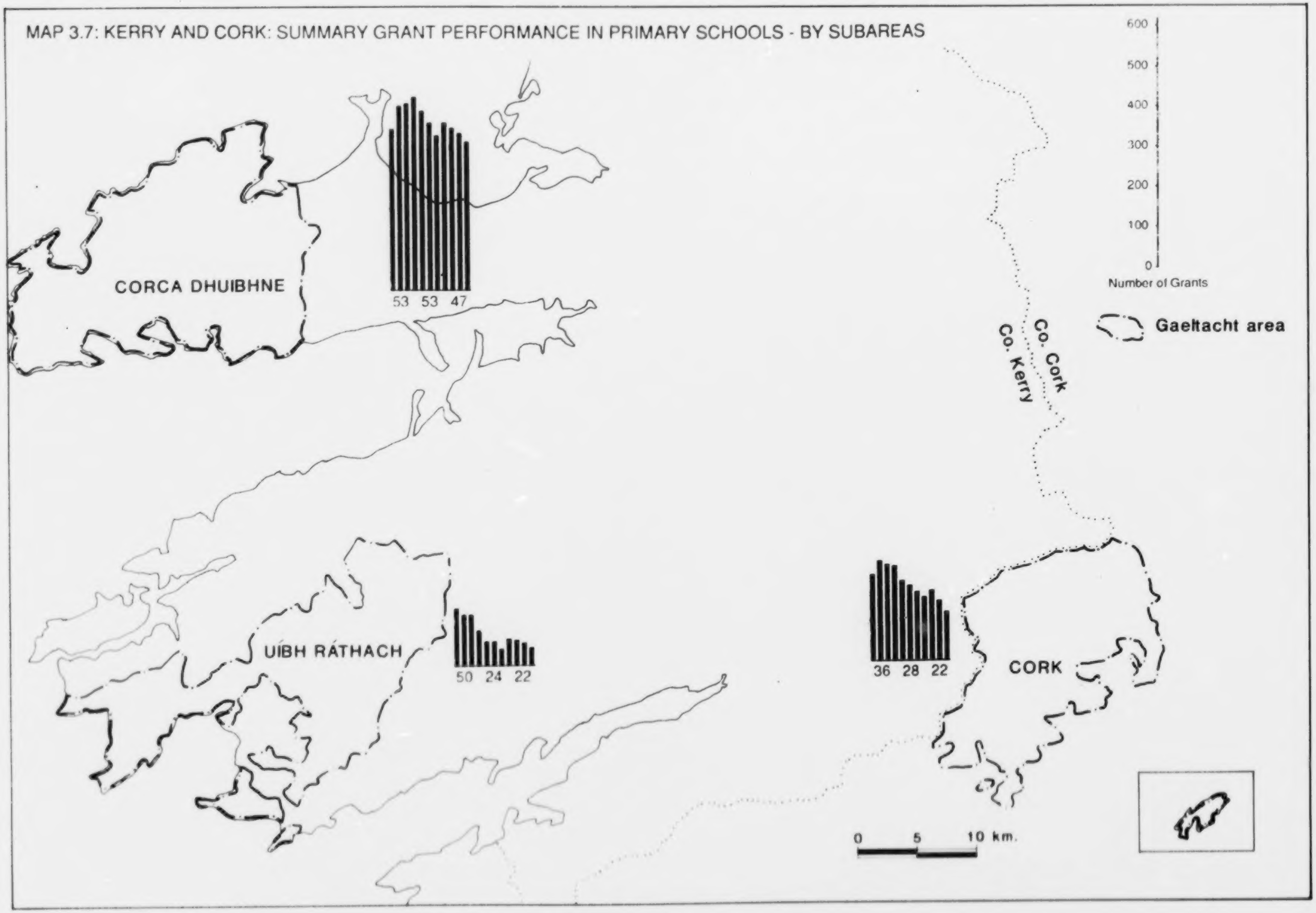


MAP 3.5: MAYO: SUMMARY GRANT PERFORMANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS - BY SUBAREAS



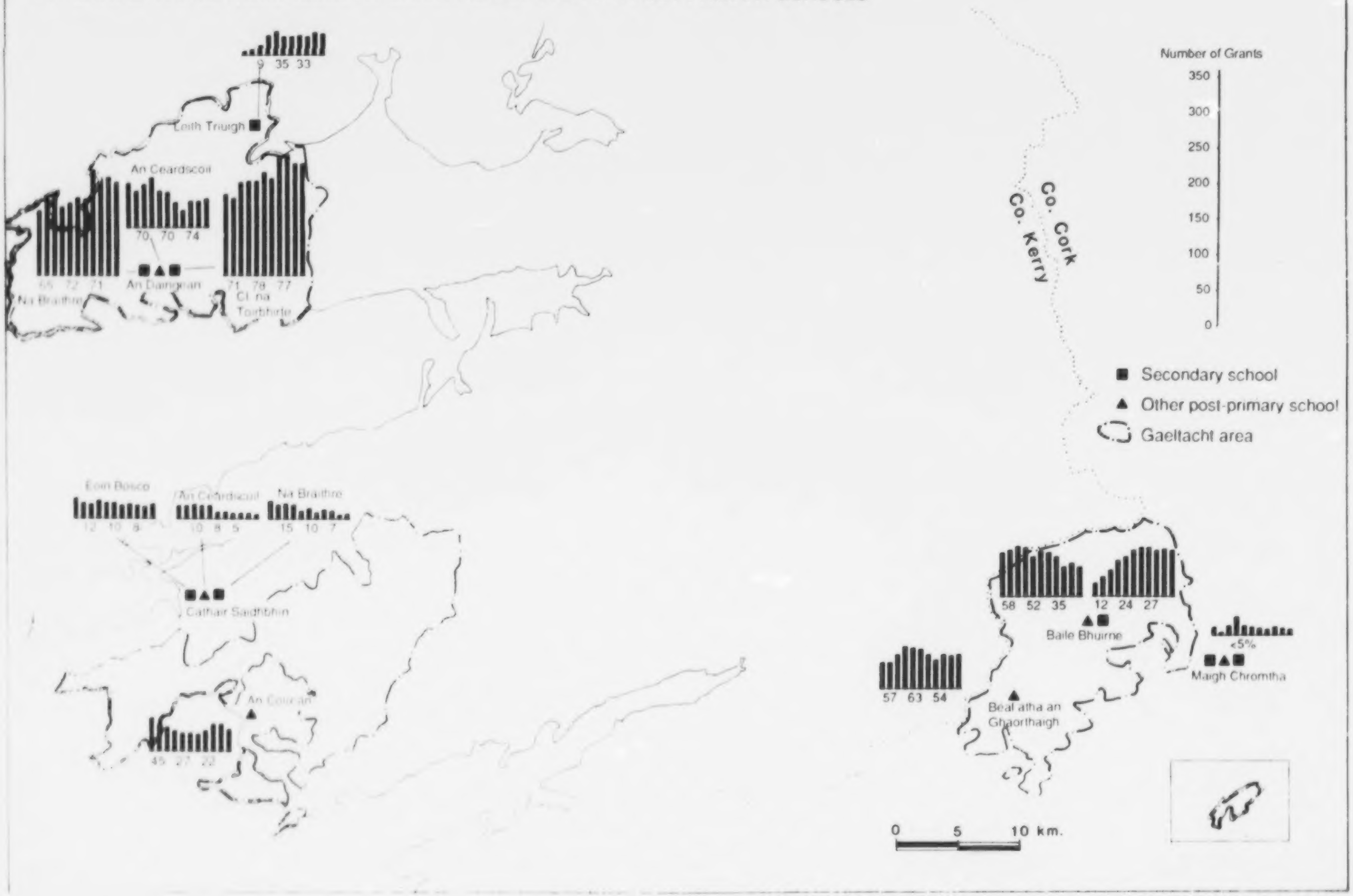
MAP 3.6: MAYO: SUMMARY GRANT PERFORMANCE IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS





MAP 3.7: KERRY AND CORK: SUMMARY GRANT PERFORMANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS - BY SUBAREAS

MAP 3.8: KERRY AND CORK: SUMMARY GRANT PERFORMANCE IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS



3.2 Local trends

This section analyses the grant situation in each of the seven counties which contain an official Gaeltacht. Three of the seven (Cork, Waterford and Meath) are small enough to be dealt with comprehensively and concisely as single units. In the four larger Gaeltachtaí however, it is necessary, both for presentation purposes and for an adequate appreciation of the variation in local grant performance, to subdivide the county into subareas. Where possible, these subareas have been loosely defined around groups of schools in the same general area with fairly homogeneous grant performance profiles. For reasons already dealt with, it has been decided to focus on groups of schools rather than on individual schools. Therefore, while each school is dealt with individually within the context of its subarea, the main emphasis is on the subarea as a whole and its grant performance in relation to that of its 'parent' Gaeltacht.

3.2.1 Explanatory notes regarding the tables

The following points should be noted with regard to the Tables used throughout this section.

1. The three subperiods used throughout this section of the Report are:

a: **The early 1970s:**
(The three years 1973/74-1975/76 inclusive)
b: **The later 1970s:**
(The five years 1976/77-1980/81 inclusive)
c: **The early 1980s:**
(The three years 1981/82-1983/84 inclusive).

2. Except where otherwise indicated, the tables summarise the grant situation in a particular subarea for each of these three subperiods as follows:
The **leftmost** column shows the annual number of grants earned by pupils in each school or group of schools, averaged for the subperiod indicated;
The **middle** column shows the average number of pupils enrolled in those schools;
The **rightmost** column is the former figure as a percentage of the latter, in other words, the grant performance score.

3. Small inconsistencies in total figures are due to the effects of rounding and to the fact that some schools closed during a given subperiod.

4. Where a closed school amalgamated with another very early in our period its data have been subsumed within those of the extant school.

5. The following **symbols** have been used:
* An **asterisk** before a school indicates that it lies outside the Gaeltacht.
? A **question mark** indicates that a school's Gaeltacht status is unclear.
° A **raised zero** indicates that school population data for one or more years of a given subperiod are incomplete and that an average of the extant data for that subperiod has been substituted.

6. The following **abbreviations** have been used:

CL:	Clochar (Private Convent school)
CS/GS:	Ceardscoil/Gairmscoil (Public Vocational or Technical school)
MS:	Meánscoil (Private Secondary school)
PS:	Pobalscoil (Public Community school)
SC:	Scoil Cuimsitheach (Public Comprehensive school)

3.2.2 County Analysis: Donegal

The Donegal Gaeltacht is uniquely isolated, both geographically and linguistically. It is located in the north, west and southwest of the county, facing the Atlantic Ocean. The remainder of the county is bounded by Northern Ireland, except for a narrow southern land corridor with the rest of the Republic. Much of the area is mountainous and communications are limited.

According to the 1981 Census, the population of the Donegal Gaeltacht is only marginally smaller than that of Galway, the most populous of the seven Gaeltachtaí (24,322 to 24,764). However, while Gaeltacht residents comprise a higher percentage of the total county population in Donegal than in any other Gaeltacht county (21%) and while four fifths (79%) of them were returned as being able to speak Irish, the Galltacht area of County Donegal, containing the remaining four fifths of the population and bordering on Northern Ireland, has the lowest percentage of Irish speakers of any county in the state and of any Galltacht area in counties containing a Gaeltacht (Donegal Galltacht 23%; National Galltacht average 30%; Galltacht average in counties containing Gaeltachtaí 33%).

Donegal has been divided into seven subareas as follows: ***Northeast***; ***Northwest A to D***; ***Central*** and ***South***. The schools within each subarea are shown in the tables, text and maps.

Primary Grants

Table 3.4 summarises the grant situation at primary school level. Part I of the Table shows that the two areas containing the most grant earners are ***Northwest B*** (from Caiseal na gCorr to An Luinneach) and ***Northwest C*** (from Doirí Beaga to Mín na Manrach). Part II of the Table shows that the share of all Donegal grants earned in ***Northwest B and C*** combined rose from 43% in the earlier 1970s, to 55% by the early 1980s. Average grant numbers in each of these two areas were roughly similar (and actually rose together) during the 1970s. By the early 1980s, however, ***Northwest C*** had begun to decline. This left ***Northwest B*** as the only one of the seven Donegal subareas with higher average grant numbers in the early 1980s than in the 1970s. ***Northwest B*** was also the only area where grant performance in local Gaeltacht schools did not fall substantially; but it did not

TABLE 3.4: SUMMARY OF THE GRANT SITUATION IN DONEGAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN (a) THE EARLY 1970s; (b) THE LATER 1970s AND (c) THE EARLY 1980s; SHOWING: THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF GRANTS EARNED IN EACH AREA (PART I); THESE AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL DONEGAL PRIMARY GRANTS (PART II); AND GRANT PERFORMANCE IN LOCAL PRIMARY GAELTACHT SCHOOLS (PART III).

	PART I			PART II			PART III			
	AVERAGE GRANTS			% OF DONEGAL			% OF LOCAL			
	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c	
NORTHEAST	221	215	167	12	13	11	29	28°	22°	°est
NORTHWEST A	209	164	133	12	10	8	54	42	34	
NORTHWEST B	384	454	461	21	26	29	76	76	76	
NORTHWEST C	393	438	422	22	26	26	74	71	65	
NORTHWEST D	193	141	124	11	8	8	23°	15°	13°	°est
CENTRAL	193	156	147	11	9	9	44	36°	35	°est
SOUTH	201	140	142	11	8	9	42	27	26	
TOTAL DONEGAL	1794	1708	1596	100	100	100	46	40	37	

NOTES:

1. NORTHEAST data exclude Dumhaigh Bhig where no grants were earned but include both An Mhaoil Rua and Carraig Airt whose Gaeltacht status is unclear.
2. CENTRAL data exclude two schools whose Gaeltacht status is unclear: Mín An Ghabhann (where no grants were earned) and An Bhreacaigh, which is located at a distance from the main Gaeltacht area.
3. PART III of the Table excludes grant qualifiers/pupils in Galltacht schools.

rise either, remaining stable at 76% of a rising school population (Part III of the table). Therefore, on this measure of bilingualism, ***Northwest B*** is the heartland of the Donegal Gaeltacht.

In the five remaining areas, average primary grant numbers were roughly equivalent in each area at each stage, falling from an average of 203 each in the early stage, to 163 in the middle stage, down to 142 by the early 1980s. This was accompanied by an average fall of about 10% in grant performance over our period.

Table 3.5 shows the distribution of Donegal Gaeltacht primary schools by area and by level of grant performance. To give a fuller picture, it also includes (in parentheses) those non-Gaeltacht schools where more than 5% of the pupils were grant qualifiers.

TABLE 3.5: GRANT PERFORMANCE IN DONEGAL GAELTACHT PRIMARY SCHOOLS BY SUBAREA (a) IN THE EARLY 1970s AND (b) IN THE EARLY 1980s
(NON-Gaeltacht schools with more than 5% grant qualifiers are in parentheses)

AREA	NORTHEAST		NW A		NW B		NW C		NW D		CENTRAL		SOUTH		TOTAL	
GRANTS	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
0-5%	3	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	4	.	.	1	.	7	8
6-10	1(1)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	2(1)	.	.	2(1)	2(1)
11-20	.(1)	1(1)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2(1)	1	.	2	2(2)	4(1)
21-30	.(2)	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	1(1)	.	.	.	1(3)	3
31-40	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.(1)	2	1	6	3(1)
41-50	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	2	.	5	1
51-60	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	2	1	.	1	3	5
61-70	1	.	.	2	1	.	.	3	1	.	.	1	.	.	3	6
71-80	.	.	.	.	3	5	6	1	.	.	2	.	.	.	11	6
81% +	.	.	3	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	6	1
TOTAL	8(4)	8(1)	4	3	5	5	7	6	7	7	9(2)	6(2)	6	4	46(6)	39(3)

The first point of note relates to school closures and amalgamations. Thirteen Donegal Gaeltacht primary schools closed over our eleven year period. The opening of new Gaeltacht schools and amalgamations with these or existing Gaeltacht schools reduced this figure to a net loss of seven. Nonetheless, on the assumption that the closed schools were more community-oriented than the larger consolidated ones, it is reasonable to assume that these closures had linguistic implications. There is insufficient evidence to test this, other than to compare trends in the schools concerned, before and after amalgamation. This will be done in the more detailed area analyses below.

The second point to note is the decline in grant performance. While decline is general, it is also relative to the area concerned. In some areas, decline can be accommodated in the short term as grant performance is already at a high level. In others, grant performance is already so low that further decline could reflect the effective demise of the area as a Gaeltacht.

The number of schools with over 70% grant performance fell from 17 to seven over our period. (Three of these seventeen schools were closed down). The most serious cases of decline at this high level were ***North-***

west A and C. In ***Northwest A***, three of the four local schools scored 85% and over in the early 1970s but none reached 70% by the early 1980s (one of them had closed). In ***Northwest C***, although no school scored above 81% at any stage, as many as six of the seven schools scored 74% - 80% in the early 1970s, compared with only one in the early 1980s (one of the original six had closed here also).

At the other end of the scale, the ***Northeast*** had no school above 70% at any stage but nine local schools (including some non-Gaeltacht schools) scored above 5% but less than 70% in the earlier 1970s; by the early 1980s, these had been reduced to five. Similarly, the eleven ***Central*** schools (again, including some non-Gaeltacht schools) which had scored above 10% in the early 1970s were reduced to five; and the five ***Southern*** schools scoring above 30% were reduced to two. Clearly, the implications of decline for each area would require more detailed local knowledge than we possess.

Post-Primary Grants

The grant situation in Donegal second level schools is shown in Table 3.6. Because there are so few post-primary schools, it is possible to deal with them together. The catchment areas of these schools do not necessarily correspond with those of the groups of primary schools used above. This is most apparant with regard to ***Northeast*** and ***Northwest C***, which have no post-primary school within the Gaeltacht area. Moreover, there is some evidence to suggest that many post-primary students do not attend the schools nearest to their homes for a variety of other reasons, including linguistic considerations. However, as we do not possess the relevant data, subarea-based comparisons with Table 3.4 are rather crude.

TABLE 3.6: SUMMARY OF THE GRANT SITUATION IN DONEGAL POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN (a) THE EARLY 1970s; (b) THE LATER 1970s AND (c) THE EARLY 1980s; SHOWING: THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF GRANTS EARNED IN EACH AREA (PART I); THESE AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL DONEGAL POST-PRIMARY GRANTS (PART II); AND GRANT PERFORMANCE IN LOCAL POST-PRIMARY GAELTACHT SCHOOLS (PART III)

	PART I			PART II			PART III		
	AVERAGE GRANTS			% OF DONEGAL			% OF LOCAL		
	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
NORTHEAST (5 Galltacht schools)	100	117	124	14	14	14	-	-	-
*Cl Baile na nGallóglach	65	81	96	9	10	10	[15	13	13]
*CS Baile na nGallóglach	32	32	20	4	4	2	[14	14	8]
*3 Leitir Ceanainn schools	2	4	8	-	-	1	[5	5	5]
NORTHWEST (3 Gaeltacht schools)	442	546	649	61	66	71	46	43	41
NW A: PS Cloich Chionnaola	181	230	288	25	28	32	38	37	38
NW B: PS Gaoth Dobhair	208	259	305	29	31	33	87	86	86
NW D: PS Na Rossan	53	57	56	7	7	6	22	17	12
CENTRAL (3 Galltacht, 1 Gaelt.)	88	82	75	12	10	8	-	-	-
*CS Srath an Urláir	5	7	2	1	1	-	[<5	<5	<5]
*MS Columba " " "	15	14	14	2	2	1	[<5	<5	<5]
*SC Na Gleannta	68	61	47	9	7	5	[17	15	11]
GS Béal An Átha Móir OPENED IN 1982			20	-	-	2	-	-	62
SOUTH CS An Charraig	98	80	67	13	10	7	45	39	27
TOTAL DONEGAL	728	825	915	100	100	100	46	43	40

NOTE: Except for data within brackets, PART III of the Table excludes the grant qualifiers and school populations of non-Gaeltacht schools.

Comparing the early 1980s with the early 1970s, the annual average number of primary grants fell by about 200 while post-primary grants rose by about the same figure. The relative distribution of second level grants between the areas tends to reflect the situation at primary level at each subperiod, with a clear trend towards decline in most areas outside the northwest. The net average increase of 188 grants p.a. in Donegal second level schools was the surplus of increases in ***Northwest*** (+47% or 207 grants p.a.) and to a much more modest extent in ***Northeast*** (+25% or 25 grants p.a.) over decreases in ***Central*** and ***South*** (-15% or 13 grants p.a. and -32% or 31 grants p.a. respectively).

The annual number of grants paid in respect of post-primary students in Donegal increased from ca. 700 to 900 during our period. Of the thirteen schools involved, only five (one of which opened as late as 1982) are within the official Gaeltacht. These five, together with SC Na Gleannta at the Glenties just outside the Gaeltacht, account for about 84% of the annual grants total. None of these schools is privately owned. The seven remaining schools are far inland from the main Gaeltacht at Milford (Baile na nGallóglach: up to 125 grants p.a.), Letterkenny (Leitir Ceanainn: less than 10 p.a.) and Stranorlar (Srath an Urláir: ca. 20 p.a.). The fact that grant earners in each of these centres are divided between secondary and vocational schools results in their never constituting as many as 20% of total enrolment in either of the Milford schools while the figure is usually well below 5% in the other two towns. Table 3.7 summarises the grant situation for each post-primary school.

TABLE 3.7: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN DONEGAL POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS, SHOWING (a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND (c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
NORTHEAST (5 Galltacht schools)									
*CL Baile na nGallóglach	65	446	15%	81	637	13%	96	734	13%
*CS Baile na nGallóglach	32	226	14%	32	236	14%	20	255	8%
* 3 Leitir Ceanainn schools	2			4			8		
NORTHWEST (3 Gaeltacht schools)									
NW A: PS Cloich Chionnaola	181	480	38%	230	625	37%	288	753	38%
NW B: PS Gaoth Dobhair	208	240	87%	259	300	86%	305	356	86%
NW C: (No local school)									
NW D: PS Na Rossan	53	238	22%	57	329	17%	56	455	12%
CENTRAL (3 Galltacht, 1 Gaeltacht)									
*CS Srath an Urláir	5	223	2%	7	227	3%	2	283	1%
*Columba " " "	15	363	4%	14	554	2%	14	731	2%
*SC Na Gleannta	68	409	17%	61	412	15%	47	425	11%
GS Béal An Átha Móir				OPENED IN 1982:			20	32°	62%
SOUTH (1 Gaeltacht school)									
CS An Charraig	98	218	45%	80	207	39%	67	246	27%

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Within the Gaeltacht itself, PS Gaoth Dobhair at Gweedore is the only school where 80% or more of the students qualify for grants each year. This is the second largest of the Donegal Gaeltacht schools. Similar grant totals are earned each year by students attending the largest Gaeltacht school (PS Cloich Chionnaola, at Falcarragh) but because this school is much larger than Gweedore, grant earners usually constitute only about 38% of its total enrolment. Nonetheless, grant performance in both of these *Northwest A and B* Gaeltacht schools has been remarkably stable over our period despite massive increases in school populations. Moreover, their combined share of all Donegal grants increased from 54% in the early 1970s to 65% in the early 1980s, by which time they accounted for a third each of all Donegal post-primary grants.

Elsewhere in the Gaeltacht the grant position is negative. In PS Na Rossan at Dunglow, grant numbers remained fairly stable at ca. 50-60 p.a. but due to rising enrolment, they constituted only 12% of its students in the early 1980s compared with 22% up to the mid-1970s. In Donegal ***Central,*** SC Na Gleannta, just outside the Gaeltacht boundary, may have lost grant earners to GS Béal an Átha Móir at Fintown, which opened as a Gaeltacht school in 1982. If so, this has merely served to reduce the profile of grant earners in SC Na Gleannta from ca. 17% to 11% p.a. while grant earners in the new Gaeltacht school constitute less than three quarters of the students there. Finally, in CS An Charraig at Carrick, which is the only Gaeltacht second level school in Donegal ***South,*** grant numbers fell by a third, or from 45% of students in the early 1970s to 27% in the early 1980s. Indeed, by the early 1980s, there were almost as many grants being paid in the Galltacht town of Milford, which serves the scattered outlying ***Northeast*** Gaeltacht enclaves, as there were in the whole ***Central*** and ***South*** county area served by the Glenties, Fintown and Carrick combined.

Subarea Analysis

***Northeast Donegal*:** The official Gaeltacht in northeast Donegal is a scattered, non-continuous series of enclaves. There is no post-primary school within the Gaeltacht area and at least six (perhaps eight) of the seventeen primary schools in the area where grants were earned over our period were technically outside the Gaeltacht. Although only one Gaeltacht primary school closed during our period, five others had been closed in the five years to 1973. Primary grant numbers declined in the area as a whole from an average of 221 in the first three years to 167 in the early 1980s, and the number of schools with ten or more grant qualifiers was reduced from seven to three. In the early 1970s, two of the seventeen schools accounted for 57% of all Northeast grant earners: by the early 1980s, they accounted for 71%.

MAP 3.9: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN DONEGAL NORTHEAST

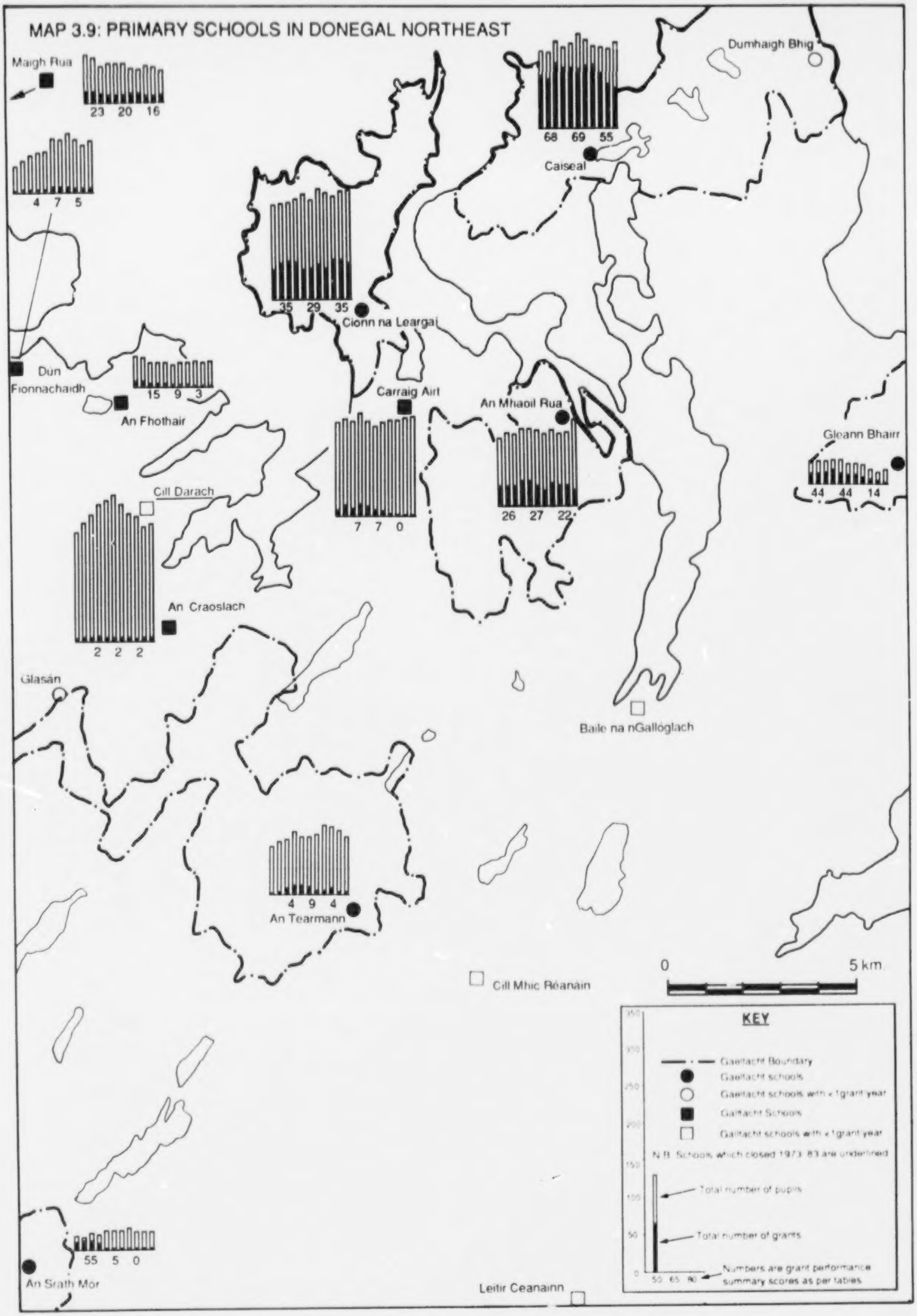


TABLE 3.8: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN NORTHEAST DONEGAL SCHOOLS, SHOWING (a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND (c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
FANAD PENINSULA									
Dumhaigh Bhig	0			0			0		
Gleann Bhairr	15	34	44%	14	32	44%	3	21	14%
Caiseal, Cionn Droma	78	115	68%	85	123	69%	65	117	55%
ROSGUILL									
Cionn na Leargaí	48	136	35%	44	149	29%	53	152	35%
*? An Mhaoil Rua	26	101	26%	29	107	27%	24	108	22%
*? Carraig Airt	10	135	7%	9	136	7%	0	139	0%
* 3 GALLTACHT TOWNS[1]	2			1			1		
An Srath Mór	11	20	55%	1	21°	5%	0	25°	0%
An Tearmann	3	73	4%	8	86	9%	4	88	4%
Glasán, An Craoslach	1	31	3%	0	27°	0%	0	23	0%
Cill Darach, Caiseal Mór	2	26	8%	CLOSED IN 1976					
*Muire, An Craoslach	3	168	2%	5	196	2%	4	169	2%
*An Fhothair	6	41	15%	3	35	9%	1	37	3%
*Dún Fionnachaidh	2	45	4%	5	70	7%	4	72	5%
*Maigh Rua	14	60	23%	10	51	20%	8	49	16%
Gaeltacht subtotal[2]	194	672	29%	191	686	28%	150	673	22%
TOTAL PRIMARY	221			215			167		

1. The three Galltacht towns are Baile na nGallóglach (Milford), Leitir Ceanainn (Letterkenny) and Cill Mhic Réanáin (Kilmacrenan): see text.
2. The Gaeltacht subtotal excludes (a) all Galltacht schools and (b) Dumhaigh Bhig where no grants were earned; it includes An Mhaoil Rua and Carraig Airt.

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
*CL Baile na nGallóglach	65	446	15%	81	637	13%	96	734	13%
*CS Baile na nGallóglach	32	226	14%	32	236	14%	20	255	8%
* 3 Leitir Ceanainn schls	2			4			8		
*TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	100			117			124		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Of the three Gaeltacht schools on the Fanad Peninsula, no grants at all were earned at **Dumhaigh Bhig** while grant numbers at **Gleann Bhairr** fell from ca. fifteen p.a. throughout the 1970s to almost zero. The third school, **Caiseal**, at Cionn Droma, regularly accounted for 35-40% of all Northeast grants but grant performance among its fairly stable school population fell from almost 70% in the 1970s, to 55% by the early 1980s.

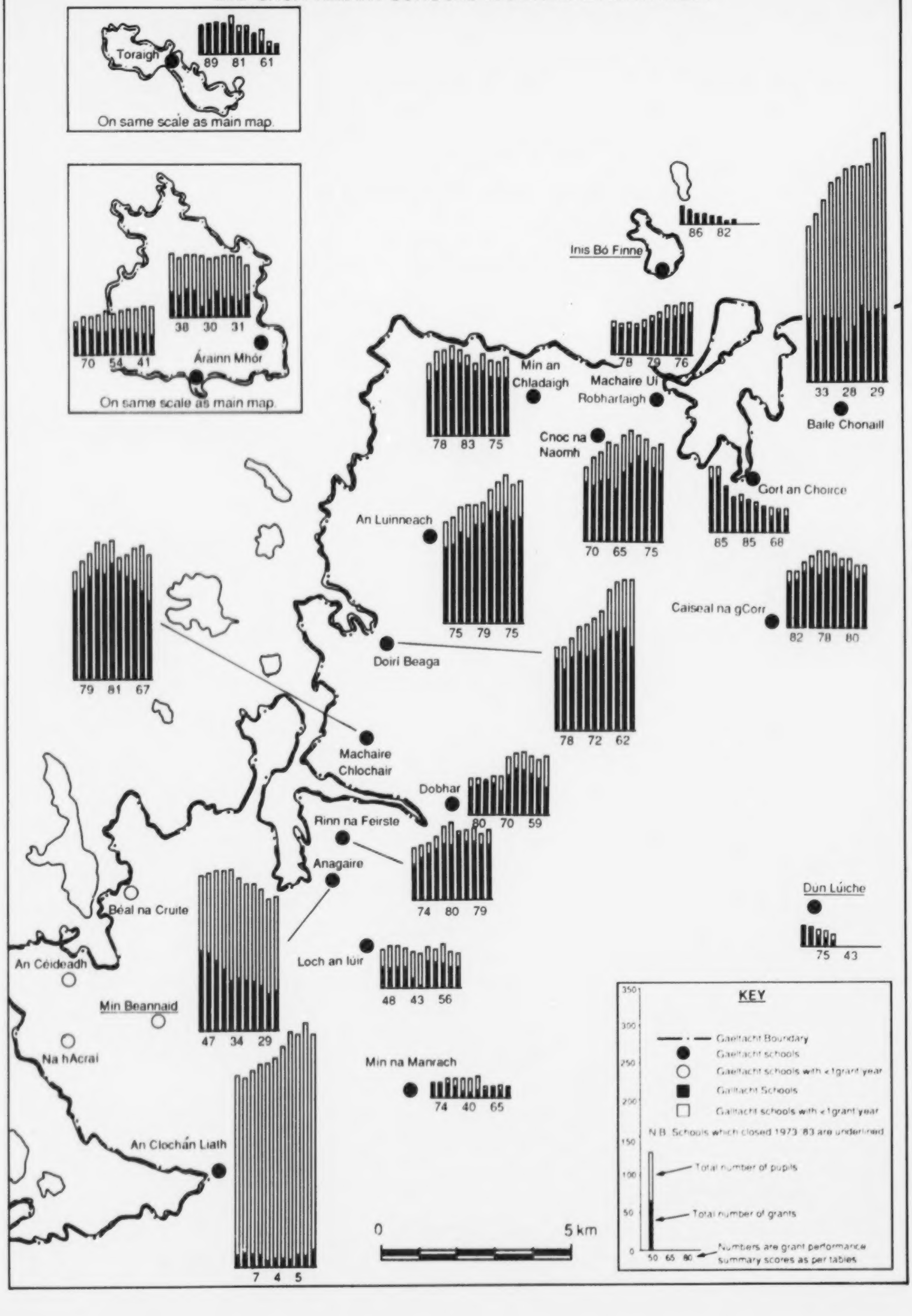
Grants were also regularly earned in three schools on Rosguill on the western side of Mulroy Bay. **Cionn na Leargaí** (Na Dúnaibh) regularly accounted for almost a third of all Northeast grant numbers but grant performance was only a third. The Gaeltacht status of the other two schools is unclear but whereas grants are no longer earned at **Carraig Airt**, 20 to 30 pupils (somewhat over 20% of the school population) continued to earn the grant each year at **An Mhaoil Rua** (Duibhleann Riach) making it the third largest source of grants in the Northeast subarea.

To the south of these schools, no more than about two grants p.a. (or 1% of the school populations) were ever earned in three Galltacht schools located at **Baile Na nGallóglach** (Milford), **Leitir Ceanainn** (Letterkenny) and **Cill Mhic Réanáin** (Kilmacrenan). By contrast, and reflecting the total lack of Gaeltacht *post-primary* schools in the Northeast area, over 100 grants were earned each year by post-primary students attending two Milford schools, with another handful being earned in three Letterkenny schools. The fact that grant earners in both centres were divided between secondary and vocational schools resulted in their never constituting as many as 20% of total enrolment in either of the Milford schools with this figure usually well below 5% in the three at Letterkenny.

Again, to the west of this area, only a handful of primary grants were earned in the three Gaeltacht primary schools of **An Srath Mór**, **An Tearmann** and **Glasán**. (The only other Northeast Gaeltacht school, **Cill Darach**, closed in 1976, but only two of its average enrolment of 26 pupils had been grant earners at the time). The area from An Craoslach to Dún Fionnachaidh contains three Galltacht schools where a handful of grants were earned each year, while in the Galltacht school at **Maigh Rua**, the most westerly of the Northeast schools, average grant performance fell from 23% to 16%, or from fourteen pupils to eight.

Northwest Donegal: Unlike Northeast, the Northwest is an extensive Gaeltacht area which has been subdivided into four subareas, labelled A, B, C, and D. It contains within it the heartland of the Donegal Gaeltacht. With the exception of An Fál Carrach in the north and most of the Rosses area in the south, well over half of all primary and post-primary school populations qualified for the grant over our period. No local Galltacht schools were involved. Ten Gaeltacht primary schools were closed down between 1967 and the beginning of our period and a further five of the remaining 25 were closed during our period. One new primary school was opened in 1978.

MAP 3.10: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN DONEGAL NORTHWEST



Northwest A, in the north, contained four Gaeltacht primary schools. One of these, **Baile Chonaill (An Fál Carrach)** is one of the two largest primary schools in the Donegal Gaeltacht. It is unusual insofar as ca. 80-100 pupils earned the grant each year without ever constituting more than a third of the school population. However, grant performance remained at 28-33% despite a rapid growth in pupils over our period. The other three Northwest A schools began our period with very high grant performance scores but experienced serious demographic decline. Two of these were island schools: **Inis Bó Finne** closed in 1981 (having been reduced to only seven pupils on the rolls) while **Toraigh** appeared to be in a similar state of decline. The final school, **Gort An Choirce**, had become such a small school by the early 1980s that the decline in grant performance (from 85% throughout the 1970s to 68% in the early 1980s) may reflect the absence of senior pupils as much as linguistic decline.

Northwest B, to the west of Northwest A, contains five primary schools. In four of them, **Caiseal Na gCorr, Machaire Uí Robhartaigh, Mín an Chladaigh** and **An Luinneach**, grant performance was regularly 75-80% or so, while in the fifth, **Cnoc na Naomh**, it ranged from 65%-75%. The fact that school populations also rose considerably over the same period suggests that this area is not only the heartland of the Donegal Gaeltacht but is also in a fairly stable, healthy condition.

Northwest C, below Northwest B, contained seven primary schools, one of which closed in 1978. At **Doirí Beaga, Machaire Chlochair, Dobhar** (incorporating **Dún Lúiche**, which closed in 1978) and **Rinn Na Feirste** - grant performance began at the same level as Northwest B (75-80%) but, except for **Rinn na Feirste**, it fell to about 55-65% of a generally rising population. The remaining two schools to the south of these are much smaller and more isolated: grant performance at **Loch An Iúir** hovered around 50% while **Mín Na Manrach** is too small to analyse in terms of trends.

TABLE 3.9: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN NORTHWEST DONEGAL SCHOOLS, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

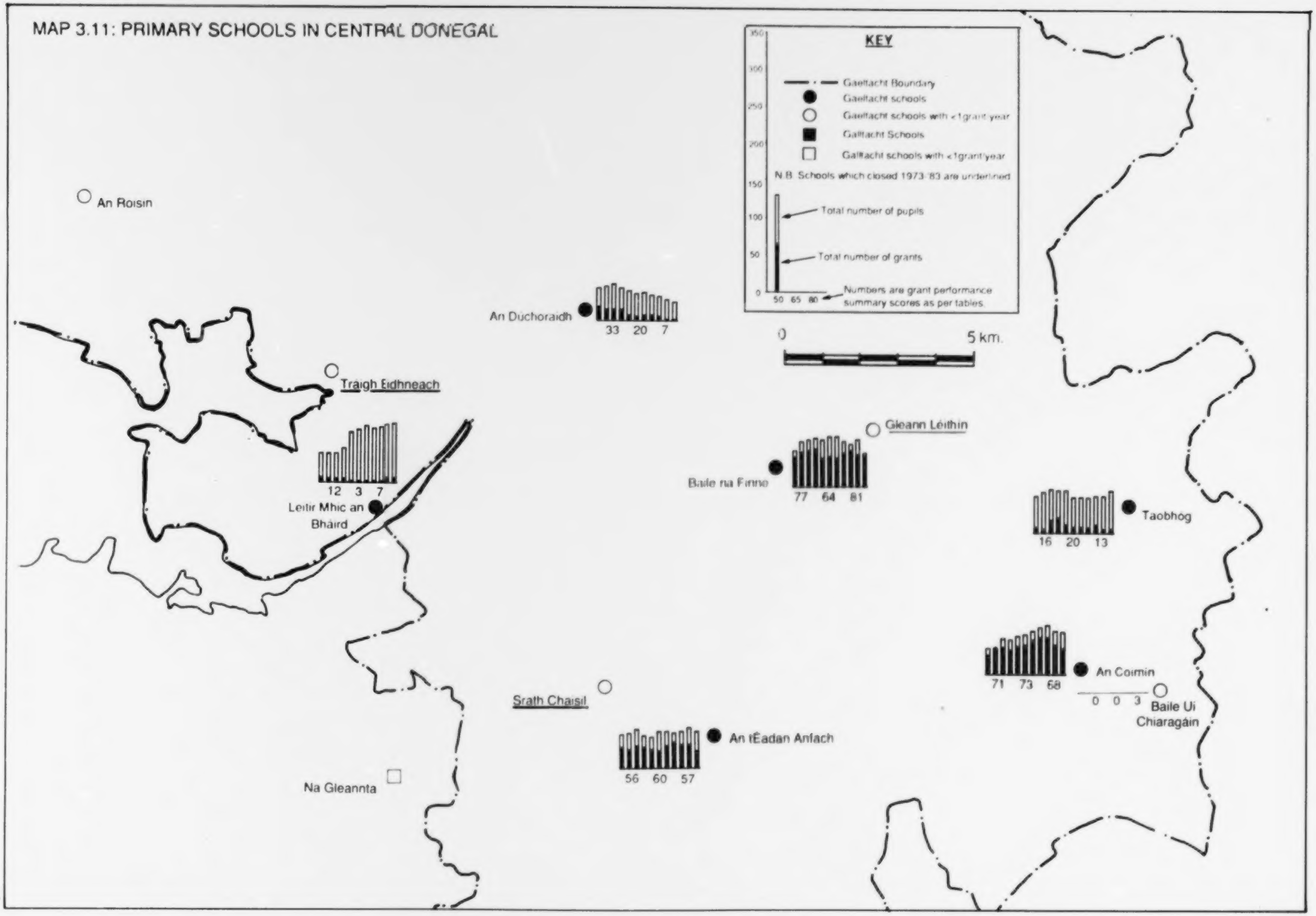
PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
NORTHWEST A	209	385	54%	164	392	42%	133	388	34%
Inis Bó Finne	19	22	86%	9	11	82%	CLOSED IN 1981		
Toraigh	40	45	89%	34	42	81%	14	23	61%
B. Chonaill, An Fál Carrach	78	236	33%	82	293	28%	96	331	29%
Gort an Choirce	71	83	85%	39	46	85%	23	34	68%
NORTHWEST B	384	508	76%	454	595	76%	461	605	76%
Caiseal na gCorr	68	83	82%	80	103	78%	73	91	80%
Cnoc na Naomh	80	115	70%	95	145	65%	103	137	75%
Machaire Uí Robhartaigh	36	46	78%	44	56	79%	55	72	76%
Mín an Chladaigh	88	113	78%	95	115	83%	80	106	75%
An Luinneach	113	150	75%	140	177	79%	150	200	75%
NORTHWEST C	393	528	74%	438	613	71%	422	646	65%
Doirí Beaga	95	122	78%	118	164	72%	131	210	62%
Machaire Chlochair	134	169	79%	154	189	81%	125	187	67%
Dún Lúiche	21	28	75%	9	21	43%	CLOSED IN 1978 → Dobhar		
Dobhar	41	51	80%	51	73	70%	48	81	59%
Rinn na Feirste	57	77	74%	79	99	80%	77	98	79%
Loch an Iúir	28	58	48%	23	54	43%	30	54	56%
Mín na Manrach	17	23	74%	10	25	40%	11	17	65%
NORTHWEST D	193	852	23%	141	931	15%	124	960	13%
Anagaire	104	220	47%	72	214	34%	55	189	29%
An Clochán Liath	18	268	7%	11	199	4%	18	330	5%
3 West Rosses schools	2	208°	1%	0	273°	0%	0	302°	0%
2 Árainn Mhór schools	69	137	50%	58	143	41%	51	143ᶜ	36%
- Árainn Mhór (1)	32	84	38%	25	82	30%	24	77	31%
- Árainn Mhór (2)	37	53	70%	33	61	54%	27	66°	41%
TOTAL PRIMARY	1180	2254	52%	1203	2442	49%	1140	2605	44%

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
PS Cloich Chionnaola	181	480	38%	230	625	37%	288	753	38%
PS Gaoth Dobhair	208	240	87%	259	300	86%	305	356	86%
PS Na Rossan	53	238	22%	57	329	17%	56	455	12%
TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	442	958	46%	546	1254	43%	649	1564	41%

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Finally, ***Northwest D***, centred on the Rosses, contained nine primary schools, two of which closed shortly after our period began. Two of the nine lie off the coast on **Árainn Mhór** where grant performance on the island as a whole fell from a half to a third over our period. In one of the schools, the population fell slightly and grant performance also fell slightly (from 38% to 31%) but in the other, where the school population rose by a quarter, grant performance fell steadily from 70% to 41%. As regards the mainland schools, **Anagaire** (incorporating **Scoil Dhubhthaigh** where no grants were earned) is in serious decline, both in terms of pupils and grant performance (47% to 29%). At **An Clochán Liath** (which, by the early 1980s, had a population equal to the largest Donegal Gaeltacht primary school at An Fál Carrach) average grant numbers throughout our period were substantial compared with more rural schools (up to 20 p.a.) but

MAP 3.11: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN CENTRAL DONEGAL



made up only about 5% of the school population. The remaining Gaeltacht primary schools in the western Rosses area - **Na hAcraí** (incorporating **Mín Beannaid**), **Céideadh** and **Béal Cruite** - registered only a handful of grants throughout our entire period.

As regards *post-primary* grants in the ***Northwest*** as a whole, **PS Gaoth Dobhair** at Gweedore was the only school in Donegal with a regular grant performance of 80% or higher during our period. This is the second largest of the Donegal Gaeltacht second level schools. The largest, **PS Cloich Chionnaola** at Falcarragh had similar grant numbers but because this school is much larger than Gweedore, grant performance was usually only about 38%. Nonetheless, grant performance in both of these Northwest Gaeltacht schools remained remarkably stable over our period despite massive increases in school populations; so much so that their combined share of all Donegal second level grants increased from 54% in the early 1970s to 64% in the early 1980s, each of them accounting for one third of annual post-primary grant numbers in the county. In **PS Na Rossan** at Dunglow, grant numbers remained fairly stable at ca. 50-60 p.a. but due to rising enrolment, grant performance fell from 22% in the early period, to 12% in the early 1980s.

Central Donegal: Primary grant numbers in the area as a whole fell from 193 to 147 over our period. All of the Gaeltacht primary schools in the area are very small despite a large number of closures and amalgamations: seven Gaeltacht schools were closed between 1967 and the beginning of our period and four of the remaining eleven closed during our period. It is noteworthy that grant performance in two of the latter had been very high prior to closure.

The Gaeltacht status of a twelfth school, **Mín An Ghabhann**, where no grants at all were earned, is unclear. So too is the Gaeltacht status of **An Bhreacaigh**, with which two of the closed Gaeltacht schools were amalgamated just prior to our period. However, grant performance here, as well as in the non-Gaeltacht school at **Mínte na Dé**, close by, has been no worse than in most of the Gaeltacht schools in the area. A handful of grants were also paid in respect of pupils in five other Galltacht schools in the earlier part of our period but these had ceased by the 1980s.

TABLE 3.10: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN CENTRAL DONEGAL SCHOOLS, SHOWING (a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND (c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Leitir Bric	6	20	30%	CLOSED IN 1975					
An Taobhóg	9	56	16%	11	54	20%	7	54	13%
Gleann Léithín	15	16	94%	CLOSED IN 1974:see next entry					
Baile na Finne	50	65	77%	43	67	64%	44	54	81%
An Dúchoraidh	16	48	33%	8	40	20%	2	30	7%
Tráigh Eidhneach	7	13	54%	CLOSED IN 1976:see next entry					
Leitir Mhic an Bhaird	5	41	12%	2	73°	3%	6	82	7%
Baile Uí Chiaragáin	0	30°	0%	0	31°	0%	1	36	3%
An Coimín	29	41	71%	41	56	73%	42	62	68%
An tÉadan Anfach	29	52	56%	30	50	60%	31	54	57%
Srath Chaisil	14	17	82%	CLOSED IN 1975					
Gaeltacht subtotal[1]	162	372	44%	134	369	36%	131	372	35%
*? Mín an Ghabhann	0			0			0		
*? An Bhreacaigh	13	73	18%	7	73	10%	5	77	6%
*Mínte na Dé	10	39	26%	9	40	22%	10	32	31%
*Five other schools	7			3			0		
TOTAL PRIMARY	193			156			147		

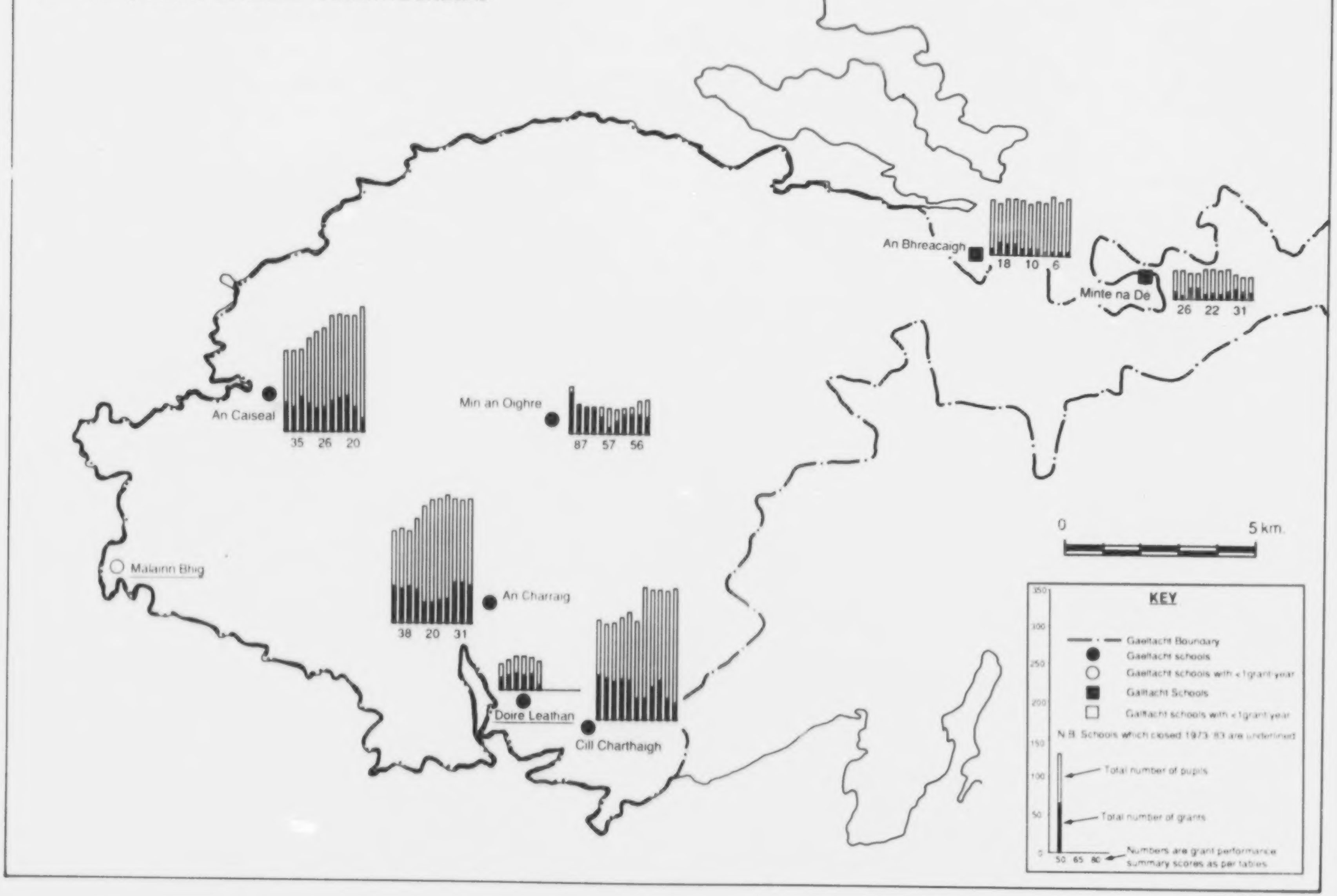
1. The Gaeltacht subtotal excludes (a) all Galltacht schools and (b) Mín an Ghabhann where no grants were earned. It includes an estimated school population of 30 p.a. for Baile Uí Chiaragáin up to and including 1977/8.

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLY 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
*CS Srath an Urláir	5	223	2%	7	227	3%	2	283	1%
*Columba " " "	15	363	4%	14	554	2%	14	731	2%
*SC Na Gleannta	68	409	17%	61	412	15%	47	425	11%
GS Béal an Átha Móir				OPENED IN 1982			20	32°	62%
TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	88			82			75		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Thus, despite the number of schools attended by grant earners, it is clear that the Central Donegal Gaeltacht really covers only a very small area. Indeed, by the early 1980s, 80% of all grants were being paid in respect of pupils attending just three of the Gaeltacht schools: **Baile Na Finne** (where 65-80% of the falling school population regularly earned the grant); **An Coimín** (65-75% of a rising school population); and **An tÉadan Anfach** (55-60% of a stable population. At **An Taobhóg**, only about 15% of the pupils consistently earned the grant; at **An Dúchoraidh**, grant numbers fell steadily from sixteen to two, while the remaining Gaeltacht schools never produced more than a handful of grants, if any, each year. Further south, near Ard An Rátha, grant numbers and grant performance at **An Bhreacaigh** (whose Gaeltacht status is unclear) both fell by two thirds to a mere five pupils p.a. (6%), while in the nearby non-Gaeltacht

MAP 3.12: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SOUTH DONEGAL



school at **Mínte na Dé**, a steady ten or so grant-earning pupils rose from a fifth to a third of the falling school population.

As regards *post-primary* grants, **SC Na Gleannta**, just outside the Gaeltacht boundary, appeared to lose grant earners to the newly opened **GS Béal an Átha Móir** at Fintown, which is within the official Gaeltacht. By the early 1980s however, this had merely served to reduce grant performance in SC Na Gleannta from ca. 17% to 11%, while grant performance in the new Gaeltacht school was still below three quarters of the students there.

South Donegal: All grants earned in this area during our period were in Gaeltacht schools. Five local Gaeltacht primary schools were closed between 1967 and the beginning of our period and three of the remaining six closed during our period. Two of the latter were amalgamated into a new school, leaving four Gaeltacht schools by the 1980s compared with eleven in 1967. During the first three years of our period, an annual average of 201 pupils in all of the above schools (42% of total pupils) earned the grant. For the rest of the period however, the figure was 142 (26%).

At **Naomh Chartha (Cill Charthaigh)** grant numbers and performance were more than halved, to one fifth of total pupils. (Grant performance had already been falling in both **Doire Leathan** and the old **Cill Charthaigh** school, whose amalgamation resulted in this new school). At **An Charraig**, up the road, grant performance moved from 40% to 20% and back to 30% over our period; while further north, at **Mín An Oighre**, grant numbers and performance were almost halved, to just over half of the pupils in the school. Finally, at **An Caiseal**, just outside Gleann Cholmcille in the west, the decline was from 35% to 20% (or from 31% to 20% controlling for the 1976 amalgamation with the almost totally anglophone **Málainn Bhig**).

The only Gaeltacht *post-primary* school in the area is **CS An Charraig** (Carrick). Here, grant numbers fell by a third and grant performance fell from 45% to 27% over our period.

TABLE 3.11: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN SOUTH DONEGAL SCHOOLS, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Doire Leathan	20	42	48%	16	44	36%	CLOSED:1979) see next		
Cill Charthaigh	56	136	41%	45	142	32%	CLOSED:1979) entry		
Naomh Chartha	OPENED IN 1979:			36	181	20%	35	180	19%
An Charraig	47	123	38%	32	159	20%	51	165	31%
Mín an Oighre	40	46	87%	20	35	57%	24	43	56%
Málainn Bhig	1	18	5%	CLOSED IN 1976:see next entry					
An Caiseal	38	108	35%	36	140	26%	32	158	20%
TOTAL PRIMARY	201	473	42%	140	517	27%	142	545	26%

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
CS An Charraig	98	218	45%	80	207	39%	67	246	27%

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Summary of the Grant Situation in Donegal

It will be recalled that about 80-85% of primary school children would normally be old enough to apply for the grant. By the early 1980s however, the extreme northwest (***Northwest B***) was the only area in Donegal where even three quarters of primary pupils were still earning the grant. Even here, however, in the heartland of the Donegal Gaeltacht, average grant performance remained at 76% despite a large rise in the number of grant qualifiers during our period. Moving inland, in the Gaeltacht primary schools between Doirí Beaga and Mín na Manrach, grant performance fell from three quarters to two thirds over our period. Elsewhere, except for a handful of widely separated schools, it fell to (or remained at) one third or less - often considerably less.

These trends are mirrored at second level, that is, general decline except for the extreme northwest where soaring grant numbers increased at the same rate as soaring school populations. This area contains the only post-primary school in the whole of Donegal where over 80% of the students regularly earned the grant: and by the early 1980s, no other school reached even 40%.

The overall picture therefore, is of declining levels of grant performance. Although the *weakest* areas continued to be the Rosses and the northeast, the greatest *decline* over our period was in southern Donegal where primary and post-primary grant performance *both* fell from over 40% to just over a quarter. When changes of this magnitude can occur within the school-going life of a normal child in one of the two major Gaeltachtaí, there would appear to be justification for concern about the future of the Gaeltacht.

3.2.3 County Analysis: Galway

The Galway Gaeltacht, with 24,764 inhabitants according to the 1981 Census, is marginally the most populous of the seven Gaeltachtaí and covers a large area. Most of it lies to the west of Galway city, from the city outskirts to the islands and peninsulae west of the Twelve Bens mountains. It takes in another area east of Galway city and the remainder is north of the city, joining up with the Mayo Gaeltacht at the southern end of Lough Mask. Galway can be divided into nine areas as follows:

1. ***Árainn*** (the Aran Islands)
2. ***Ceantar na nOileán*** (the islands of Leitir Mealláin, Garmna and Leitir Móir)
3. ***Carna*** (the Carna peninsula)
4. ***Ros Muc - An Cheathrú Rua*** (the crescent-shaped area from Rosmuc to Carraroe)
5. ***Ros an Mhíl - Bearna*** (the Galway Bay area from Rosaveel to Barna)
6. ***Galway City*** (which is not in the Gaeltacht)
7. ***East Galway*** (to the east of Lough Corrib)
8. ***The Moycullen Area*** (west of Lough Corrib, from Galway city to Oughterard)
9. ***The Joyce Country*** (bounded by Oughterard, Clifden and Clonbur).

Primary Grants

Overall grant performance in Galway Gaeltacht primary schools fell from 60% in the early 1970s to 50% thereafter. The two areas with the highest grant performance figures are also the only areas where the Gaeltacht school-going populations fell over our period. These are the two groups of islands, ***Árainn*** and ***Ceantar na nOileán***, where primary grant performance remained at 75-85% throughout our period but school populations fell by a fifth. On ***Carna***, grant performance fell from four fifths to two thirds of a fairly stable school population and appears to have stabilised at this level. About half of all Galway primary grant earners attended schools in the contiguous ***Ros Muc - An Cheathrú Rua*** and ***Ros an Mhíl - Bearna*** areas. In both cases, despite substantially increased grant numbers, grant performance fell by ca. 10% of the rising primary school population: again, however, it appears to have stabilised, at about 70% and 50% respectively. North of Galway city, in the ***Moycullen Area*** and the ***Joyce Country***, grant numbers generally increased in line with school populations but still constituted fairly small minorities of a fifth and a third respectively. Finally, in ***Galway City*** and ***East Galway***, the small number of grant earners not only declined but became even more marginalised among their fast-rising school populations.

TABLE 3.12: SUMMARY OF THE GRANT SITUATION IN GALWAY PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN (a) THE EARLY 1970s; (b) THE LATER 1970s AND (c) THE EARLY 1980s; SHOWING: THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF GRANTS EARNED IN EACH AREA (PART I); THESE AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL GALWAY PRIMARY GRANTS (PART II); AND GRANT PERFORMANCE IN LOCAL PRIMARY GAELTACHT SCHOOLS (PART III).

	PART I			PART II			PART III		
	AVERAGE GRANTS			% OF DONEGAL			% OF LOCAL		
	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
ÁRAINN	199	186	162	10	10	8	76	80	75
CEANTAR NA nOILEÁN	333	294	257	17	17	14	84	84	79
CARNA	269	209	225	14	12	12	82	66	66
ROS MUC - C'RÚ RUA	419	401	451	22	23	24	81	71	73
ROS A'MHÍL - BEARNA	458	478	557	24	27	29	60	49	51
GALWAY CITY	44	32	31	2	2	2	--	--	--
EAST GALWAY	74	43	34	4	2	2	16	8	5
MOYCULLEN AREA	62	56	79	3	3	4	18	16	21
JOYCE COUNTRY	88	79	88	4	4	5	33	27	29
TOTAL GALWAY	1946	1778	1884	100	100	100	60	50	49

NOTES: Two Gaeltacht primary schools where no grants were earned are excluded entirely from the Table while Part 3 of the Table excludes Galltacht schools.

Post-Primary Grants

Grants were normally earned by 800 to 1000 post-primary students in 20 Galway schools during our period. Seven of these, accounting for about 85% of grants annually, are Gaeltacht schools, while ten of the 13 non-Gaeltacht schools, accounting for almost all of the remainder, are in Galway city. Since we do not know what parts of the Gaeltacht the large numbers of city grant earners came from and as there were some Gaeltacht areas with sizable primary grant numbers but with no post-primary grant earners, the post-primary grants will not be integrated with the primary grants on an areal basis.

Non-Gaeltacht schools: Although grant qualifiers never exceeded 12% of total enrolment in any Galway city school, the numbers involved frequently exceeded 20 p.a. in four of them, indicating considerable dispersion of Gaeilgeoirí. The case for consolidation is underlined by the fact that nearly all of the city schools attended by grant qualifiers are single-sex secondary schools, only two of which even have Irish-medium streams. Moreover, although two of the city schools cater for boarders, the vast majority of the 120+ grant earners in city schools are day-pupils. As regards the three non-Gaeltacht schools outside Galway city, no more than three students in any given year qualified for the grant in either An Clochán (Clifden) or Órán Mór (Oranmore), while the 20+ grants earned annually by 11% of the students at Uachtar Ard (Oughterard) secondary school in the early 1970s steadily declined to less than five.

TABLE 3.13: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN GALWAY POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Col An Spidéal	138	226	61%	110	202	54%	132	222	59%
CS Indreabhán	86	92	93%	94	105	89%	105	127	83%
SC An Cheathrú Rua	315	344	92%	298	328	91%	342	377	91%
GS Ros Muc	43	46	93%	43	46	93%	36	40	90%
CS Cill Rónáin	52	54	96%	54	61	88%	61	72	85%
PS Carna	137	193	71%	126	177	71%	127	168	76%
CS Corr na Móna	47	65	72%	35	67	52%	38	72	53%
Gaeltacht subtotal	818	1020	80%	760	986	77%	841	1078	78%
*10 City schools	156			124			134		
*Clochar, Órán Mór	2			0			0		
*MS Pól Uachtar Ard	23		(11%)	13		(6%)	2		(1%)
*PS An Clochán	2			0			1		
TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	1000			897			978		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Gaeltacht schools: Grants regularly exceeded 85% of total students on Inis Mór and at Rosmuc, An Cheathrú Rua and Indreabhán. To the west of these, the Carna figure was somewhat lower at two thirds to four fifths; to the east, An Spidéal was lower again at a half to two thirds; while far to the north, the Corr na Móna score was usually between a half and three quarters. These seven schools will now be examined one by one.

The nearest Gaeltacht post-primary school to Galway city is at **An Spidéal**. In this secondary school (the only one in the Galway Gaeltacht) grant numbers fell faster than the school population in the late 1970s but both had reverted to their former level (60% of students) by the early 1980s. Further along the road, the vocational school at **Indreabhán** had more grant earners in the 1980s than in the 1970s but grant performance was 10% lower (down to 83%) due to the rising school population. The comprehensive school at **An Cheathrú Rua**, by far the largest of the Galway Gaeltacht schools, accounted for a third of all Galway grants. Although student numbers fluctuated erratically, grant performance was steady at about 90%. To the north and south of here lie the much smaller vocational schools of **Rosmuc** and **Cill Rónáin** (Inis Mór, Árainn) with ca. 40 and 80 students respectively. Grant performance at Rosmuc was fairly stable (90-95%) whereas Cill Rónáin fell by about 10% (to 85%) by the early 1980s, despite rising grant numbers. The most westerly of the Galway Gaeltacht post-primary schools is the community school at **Carna**. Although grant numbers fell slightly over our period, the school population fell at a somewhat faster rate, so that grant performance rose slightly, from 71% to 76%. The final Galway Gaeltacht school lies far to the north at **Corr na Móna**, above Loch Coirib. In this vocational school, grant numbers and performance fell from 47 to 37 (73% to 53%) over our period.

Subarea Analysis

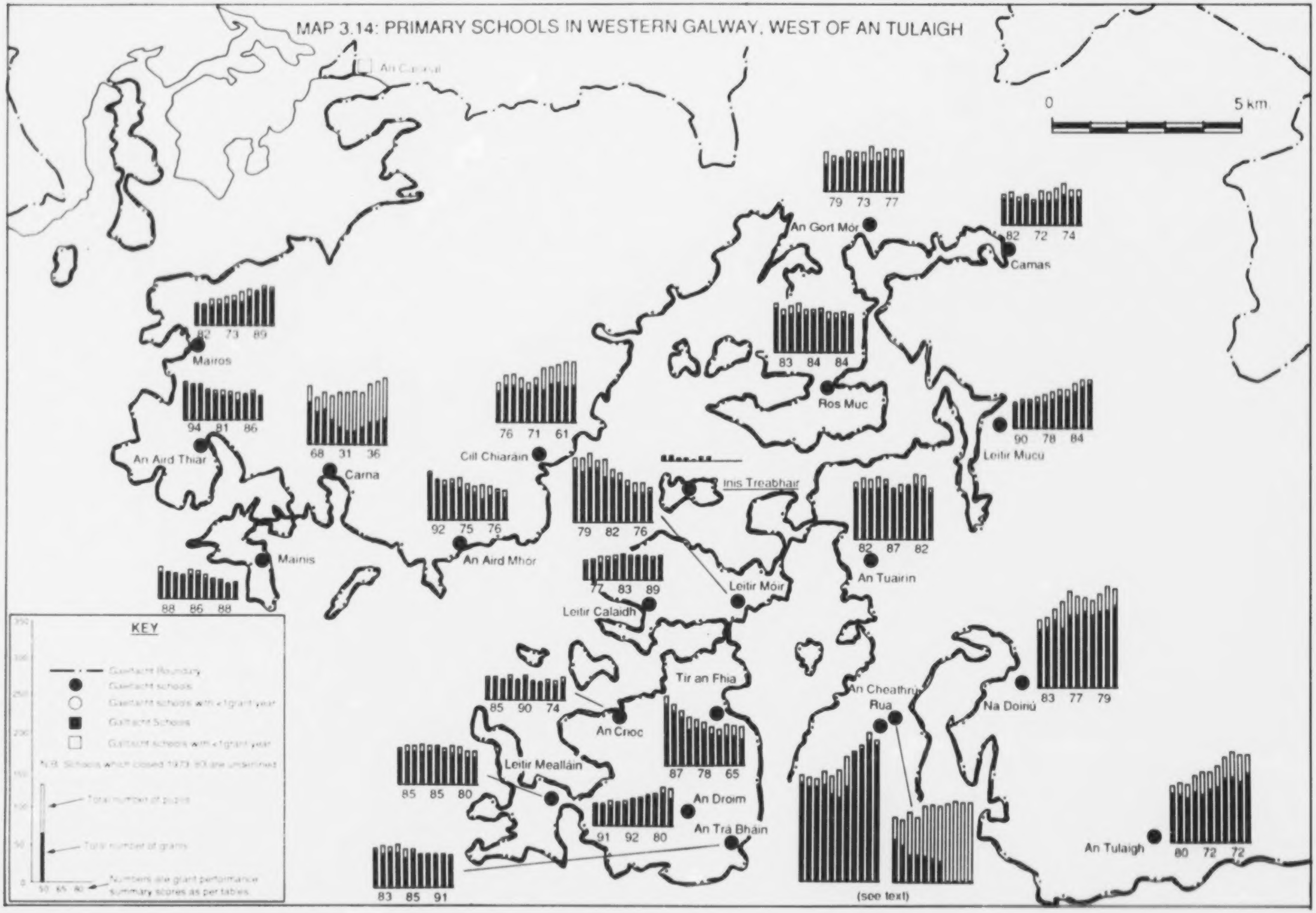
***Árainn*:** The three Aran Islands lie within the official Gaeltacht. There are three primary schools on Inis Mór and one each on Inis Oírr and Inis Meáin. Overall grant performance remained remarkably stable at ca. 75-80% over the period but the school-going population fell by a fifth. The largest of the Inis Mór schools, **Cill Rónáin**, had an exceptionally high enrolment in 1973/4 - perhaps a legacy of the 1970 amalgamation of **Cill Éinne**, the only Árainn school to close since the mid-1960s; but even if this year is excluded, it is clear that there was a steady decline in the overall school-going population of the islands, from an annual average of at least 250 in the early years to 215 in the early 1980s. Enrolment in **Cill Rónáin** fell over our period but its grant performance improved from two thirds to three quarters. Grant performance in the second Inis Mór school at **Eoghanacht** fell as the average school population doubled to 40 over our period and was the weakest of the five Árainn schools by the early 1980s (62%). Grant performance in the final Inis Mór school, **Scoil An Cheathrair Álainn**, fell somewhat but it is too small a school to speak in terms of trends. So is the school on **Inis Meáin**, where pupil enrolment was halved over our period but grant performance remained above 80% - as it did on **Inis Oírr**, where both enrolment and grant performance remained stable. (See Map 3.13 on p.**56**).

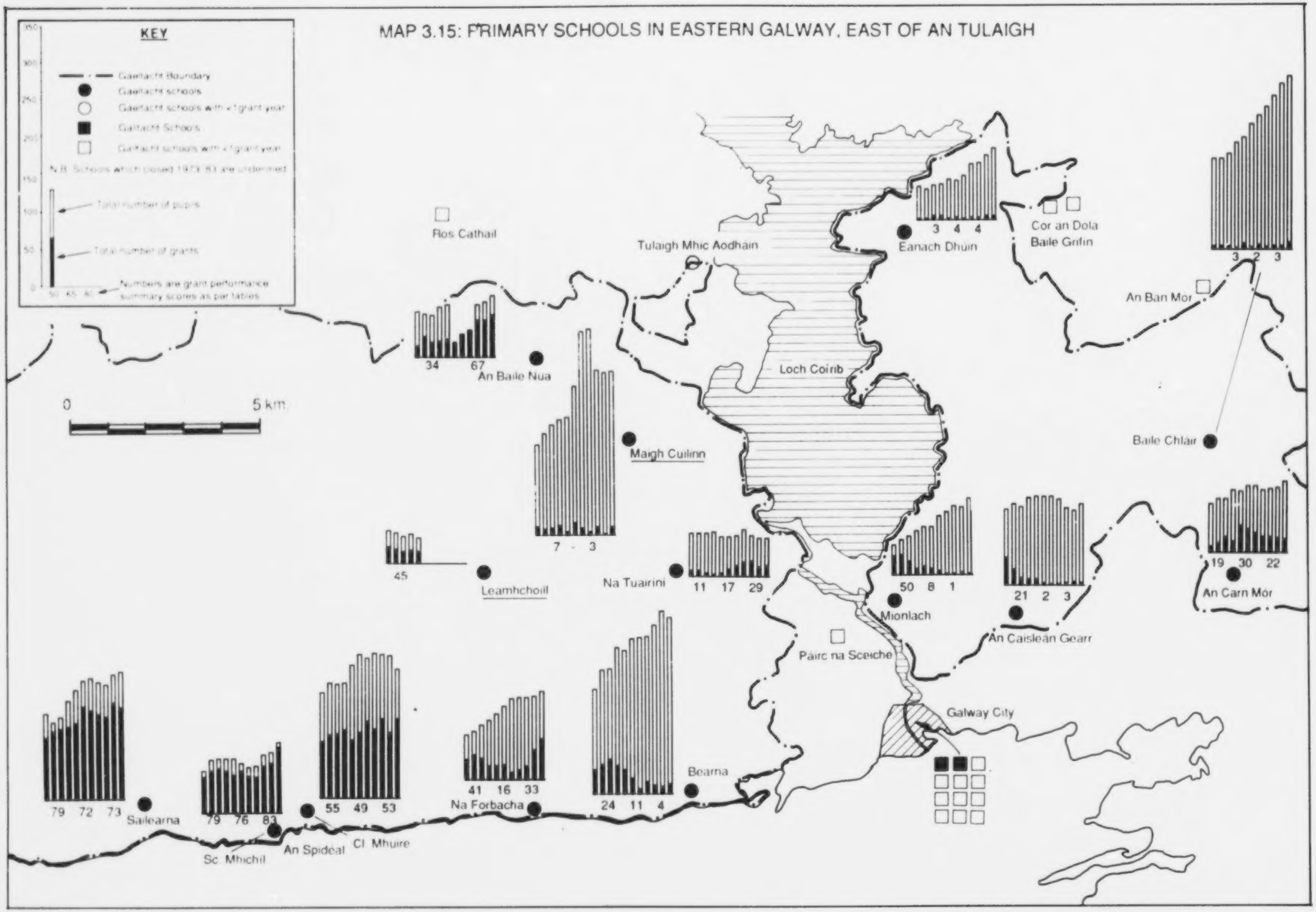
TABLE 3.14: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN ÁRAINN SCHOOLS, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Inis Oírr	41	54	76%	44	52	85%	44	51	86%
Inis Meáin	48	53	91%	32	37	86%	23	28	82%
Inis Mór (3 schools)	111	156	71%	110	144	76%	95	136	70%
- Cill Rónáin	73	110	66%	70	89	79%	53	72	74%
- Eoghanacht	16	20	80%	20	29	69%	25	40	62%
- Sc An Cheathrair Álainn	22	26	85%	20	26	77%	17	24	71%
TOTAL PRIMARY	199	263	76%	186	232	80%	162	215	75%

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

MAP 3.14: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN WESTERN GALWAY, WEST OF AN TULAIGH





MAP 3.15: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN EASTERN GALWAY, EAST OF AN TULAIGH

Ceantar na nOileán: The island group of Leitir Mealláin, Garmna and Leitir Móir forms a compact Gaeltacht area with no Galltacht schools at hand. There are seven Gaeltacht schools in the area. An eighth school, on **Inis Treabhair**, closed in 1980, having had no more than five pupils on its rolls in each of the previous five years. Overall grant performance remained remarkably stable at ca. 80-85% over our period but the primary school population fell by a fifth. Most of the population decrease occurred in the larger, more easterly schools at **Leitir Móir, Tír an Fhia** and **An Trá Bháin** but it is only in **Tír an Fhia** that grant performance declined substantially, making it the weakest school on the islands by the early 1980s (65% average grants - all others scoring three quarters and upwards). **An Droim** was the only school to substantially grow in population while the more westerly and isolated schools maintained remarkably consistent enrolments.

TABLE 3.15: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN CEANTAR NA nOILEÁN SCHOOLS, (LEITIR MEALLÁIN - GARMNA - LEITIR MÓIR) SHOWING (a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND (c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Leitir Mealláin	46	54	85%	46	54	85%	39	49	80%
An Cnoc	28	33	85%	28	31	90%	23	31	74%
Inis Treabhair	6	6	100%	3	3	100%	CLOSED	IN	1980
Tír an Fhia	76	87	87%	47	60	78%	37	57	65%
An Droim	30	33	91%	35	38	92%	41	51	80%
Leitir Móir	74	94	79%	62	76	82%	41	54	76%
Leitir Calaidh	24	31	77%	30	36	83%	31	35	89%
An Trá Bháin	49	59	83%	45	53	85%	43	47	91%
TOTAL PRIMARY	333	396	84%	294	350	84%	257	324	79%

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Carna: The self-contained Gaeltacht on the Carna peninsula contained seven primary schools in the mid 1960s, one of which, **Loch Conaortha**, amalgamated with **Cill Chiaráin** in 1970. There was a modest increase in the total school population over our period but grant performance declined seriously, from 82% in the first three years to two thirds for the remainder of the period. Grant performance remained above 80% in **Maíros, An Aird Thiar** and **Maínis** on the western side of the peninsula but fell in the more populous easterly schools. In fact, the two largest schools, **Carna** and **Cill Chiaráin** have by far the lowest grant performance of the six (36% and 61% respectively) and are the only schools where grant performance is less than three quarters. (The Gaeltacht status of Scoil Naomh Treasa, at **An Caiseal**, away to the northwest, is unclear but it only registered a total of three grants in eleven years).

TABLE 3.16: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN CARNA SCHOOLS, SHOWING (a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND (c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Maíros	28	34	82%	32	44	73%	48	54	89%
An Aird Thiar	49	52	94%	34	42	81%	36	42	86%
Maínis	36	41	88%	31	36	86%	22	25	88%
An Aird Mhór	56	61	92%	40	53	75%	34	45	76%
Cill Chiaráin	48	63	76%	48	68	71%	52	85	61%
Carna	50	74	68%	23	73	31%	32	90	36%
Gaeltacht subtotal	268	325	82%	209	316	66%	225	340	66%
*? An Caiseal	1			0			0		
TOTAL PRIMARY	269			209			225		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Ros Muc to an Cheathrú Rua: There were either six or seven Gaeltacht schools in this area. The confusion arises because the two **An Cheathrú Rua** schools were treated together as one for grants purposes after 1980/1 while their enrolment figures continued to be recorded separately. There was substantial growth in the school-going population of the area as a whole (**Ros Muc** was the only school to lose pupils but this was not serious). Overall grant performance in the area fell but remained above 80% at **Ros Muc, Leitir Mucú** and **An Tuairín** and around 75% at **An Gort Mór** and **Camas**. Finally, although grant performance at **An Cheathrú Rua** stands at only 65%, this may reflect a growing population of under-six year olds in the junior section of the school and need not mean that grant performance is actually falling. Yet again, however, we do not have the relevant data to check this.

TABLE 3.17: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION FROM ROS MUC TO AN CHEATHRÚ RUA, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL LOCATION	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Ros Muc	55	66	83%	53	63	84%	48	57	84%
Leitir Mucú	35	39	90%	39	50	78%	56	67	84%
An Tuairín	69	84	82%	70	80	87%	70	85	82%
An Gort Mór	42	53	79%	43	59	73%	47	61	77%
Camas	36	44	82%	34	47	72%	40	54	74%
2 An Cheathrú Rua schools	182	235	77%	162	265	61%	189	291	65%
TOTAL PRIMARY	419	520	81%	401	563	71%	451	615	73%

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Ros an Mhíl to Bearna: On the assumption that **SN Séamus Naofa, Bearna** (roll # 01865) and **SN Naomh Shéamais, Bearna** (roll# 19803) are one and the same school, there were eleven Gaeltacht schools in this area in the mid 1960s. Today there are seven. The four closed schools were amalgamated with four of the extant schools before our period began. They all lay westwards from An Spidéal. School populations increased considerably in all seven schools over the period yet it is only in the schools closest to Galway city, where ribbon development is rife, that grant performance was seriously dented. The recovery of grant performance at **Na Forbacha** is quite perplexing.

TABLE 3.18: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION FROM ROS AN MHÍL TO BEARNA, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL LOCATION	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Na Doiriú	86	103	83%	99	128	77%	110	139	79%
An Tulaigh	66	82	80%	76	105	72%	91	126	72%
Sailearna	93	117	79%	116	160	72%	126	173	73%
An Spidéal: Mícheál	56	71	79%	55	72	76%	75	90	83%
An Spidéal: Muire	86	157	55%	94	191	49%	104	195	53%
Na Forbacha	29	70	41%	16	102	16%	39	119	33%
Bearna	40	167	24%	23	213	11%	11	247°	4%
Gaeltacht subtotal	457	767	60%	478	971	49%	557	1089	51%
*Rathún	1			0			0		
TOTAL PRIMARY	458			478			557		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Galway City: Grants were paid in respect of pupils attending twelve primary schools in the Galway city area over our period. Needless to remark, all of these schools lie outside the Gaeltacht. Grant recipients constituted only a tiny minority of the pupils in all of them. Most of the grants were paid in respect of pupils attending two of the schools, **Fursa** and **Iognáid**.

TABLE 3.19: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN GALWAY CITY SCHOOLS, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL LOCATION	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
*Scoil Fhursa	15	248	6%	12	257	5%	15	293	5%
*Scoil Iognáid	12	218	5%	11	249	4%	9	336	3%
*Ten other schools	17			9			7		
*TOTAL PRIMARY	44			32			31		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

East Galway: There were seven Gaeltacht primary schools to the east of Loch Coirib in the mid 1960s. Today there are six, the **Baile Chláir** girls' school having amalgamated with the extant school there in 1970. A second school, **An Carn Mór**, changed its roll number in 1981/2 but the figures suggest that it simply moved to a new building. Neither of the schools at **Cor an Dola** registered even one grant over the period (although the Gaeltacht status of one of these, **Baile Grifín**, is unclear), while only a handful each year were earned by pupils at **Baile Chláir** and **Eanach Dhúin**. Grant performance at both **Mionlach** and **An Caisleán Gearr** fell from relatively high levels to almost zero after the mid 1970s. A parallel rise occurred at **An Carn Mór** (widely believed to be due to the influence of a specific teacher) but this peaked at 44% in 1977/8 and had settled back by the 1980s to its former level of about one fifth. Overall, average grant numbers in Galway **East** schools (excluding Cor an Dola) was halved over our period while the school population increased by a half. With grant performance at 5% in the early 1980s, the justification of Gaeltacht status for this area would appear to be questionable.

MAP 3.16: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN NORTH GALWAY AND SOUTH MAYO

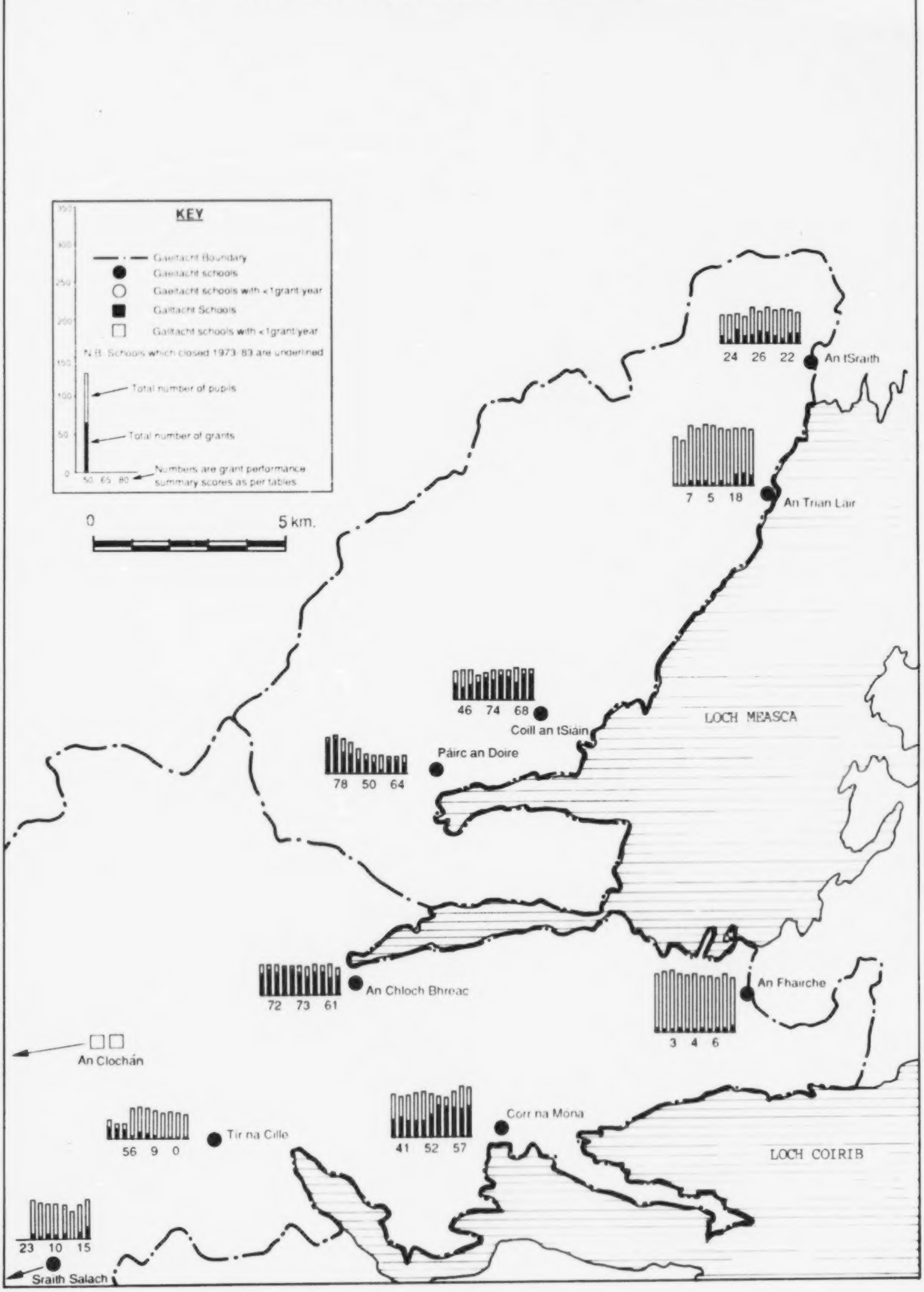


TABLE 3.20: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN EAST GALWAY SCHOOLS, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Mionlach	24	49	50%	6	73	8%	1	99	1%
An Caisleán Gearr	23	110	21%	3	123	2%	3	109	3%
*? An Carn Mór	14	73	19%	27	89	30%	20	93	22%
Baile Chláir	4	130	3%	4	174	2%	6	231	3%
Eanach Dhúin	1	47	3%	2	50	4%	4	91	4%
Subtotal	67	409	16%	42	509	8%	34	623	5%
Cor an Dola	0			0			0		
* 3 Galltacht schools	7			1			0		
TOTAL PRIMARY	74			43			34		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

***Moycullen Area*:** There are four Gaeltacht schools between Galway city and the Joyce Country. In addition to these four, an average of one grant p.a. was paid in respect of each of two Galltacht schools: **Páirc na Sceiche**, at the city end, where a total of nine grants were earned over the eleven year period; and **Ros Cathail**, to the north of the four Gaeltacht schools, where a total of fourteen grants were earned over the period. In one of the four intervening Gaeltacht schools, **Tulaigh Mhic Aodháin**, no grants at all were earned. In **Na Tuairíní**, grant performance improved almost threefold.

TABLE 3.21: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN THE MOYCULLEN AREA, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Na Tuairíní	7	61	11%	10	60	17%	16	55	29%
Maigh Cuilinn	29	186	16%	16)	283	15%	8	230	3%
An Baile Nua	21	62	34%	28)			54	81	67%
Subtotal	57	309	18%	55	343	16%	78	366	21%
Tulaigh Mhic Aodháin	0			0			0		
* 2 Galltacht schools	5			1			1		
TOTAL PRIMARY	62			56			79		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

The two remaining schools pose a problem insofar as one of them, **An Baile Nua**, closed temporarily between 1978/9 and September 1981. But while its pupils were amalgamated with those in the new central school at **Maigh Cuilinn**, grants continued to be enumerated under the old **An Baile Nua** school title. To add to the confusion, the new school at **Maigh Cuilinn**, itself an amalgamation of two other Gaeltacht schools, came into being at the same time as **An Baile Nua** was temporarily closed down. On the face of it, many Gaeilgeoirí from the closed schools which amalgamated into the new central school at **Maigh Cuilinn** would appear to have opted to attend **Na Tuairíní** and the reopened **An Baile Nua**. Overall, excluding Tulaigh Mhic Aodháin, the Gaeltacht primary school population of the Moycullen area rose by a fifth while grant performance rose slightly, to one fifth by the early 1980s.

***The Joyce Country*:** This area contained eleven Gaeltacht primary schools in the mid-1960s. Today there are five, all of them incorporating at least one of the seven closed schools. One of the closed schools, **Loch Eidhneach**, was amalgamated in 1968 with a non-Gaeltacht school. Due to the high number of closures and amalgamations, it is difficult to analyse overall trends; however, it is clear that grant earners are now concentrated in just two schools, which between them accounted for 81% of all grants in the Joyce Country (677 out of 839) during our period. These are **Corr na Móna**, where grant performance increased faster than the increase in population; and **An Chloch Bhreac**, where population and grant performance remained stable.

TABLE 3.22: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN THE JOYCE COUNTRY, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Pádraig, An Fhairche	3	84	3%	3	79	4%	5	77	6%
Tír na Cille	13	23	56%	4	41	9%	0	35	0%
Corr na Móna	24	58	41%	31	59	52%	39	68	57%
An Chloch Bhreac	31	43	72%	30	41	73%	25	41	61%
Sraith Salach	7	32	23%	5	50	10%	7	47	15%
Gaeltacht subtotal	79	240	33%	73	270	27%	77	268	29%
* 3 Uachtar Ard schools	9			6			10		
* 2 An Clochán schools	0			0			1		
TOTAL PRIMARY	88			79			88		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Summary of the Grant Situation in Galway

At primary level, the only areas where at least three quarters of Gaeltacht school pupils still earned the grant by the early 1980s were the two Galway island groups of Ceantar na nOileán (79%) and Árainn (75%) but the primary school populations were declining in both of these areas. To the west of Ceantar na nOileán, on the Carna peninsula, grant performance fell from over 80% to two thirds. In the extensive area eastwards from Ceantar na nOileán to the outskirts of Galway city, grant numbers rose but grant performance fell by about 10% - to three quarters in the westerly part, to a half in the part closer to the city. Galway city itself, which is not in the Gaeltacht, continued to account for 2% of all primary grants earned in the county, but these still constituted only a tiny percentage of the host school populations. In the Gaeltacht area east of Galway city, grant performance fell from 16% to 5%. North of Galway city, it continued to hover around one fifth in the Moycullen area and around one third further north in the Joyce Country (and in adjacent South Mayo).

At post-primary level, the highest scores were again in those schools serving the two Galway groups of islands of Ceantar na nOileán and Árainn: these continued to score 85% or over although the Árainn score had fallen by 11% over our period. The profile of Indreabhán was almost identical to that of Árainn but had fallen just below the 85% mark by the early 1980s. On Carna, grant performance improved somewhat, but just to three quarters; An Spidéal managed to recover to about 60% after a decline during the later 1970s and the Joyce Country declined from three quarters to a half.

3.2.4 County Analysis: Mayo

The Mayo Gaeltacht has been divided into five subareas as follows.

1. ***Belmullet A*** encompasses the Belmullet peninsula (Béal an Mhuirthead);
2. ***Belmullet B*** is the mainland area to the north of Belmullet
3. ***Belmullet C*** is the mainland area to the south of Belmullet. Subareas 1-3 are referred to collectively as **Belmullet** or **North Mayo**.
4. ***Corrán/Acaill*** (or **Mid-Mayo**): the Corraun peninsula and eastern Achill Island
5. ***Loch Measca*** (or **South Mayo**): on the western and southern sides of Lough Mask, linking up with the Joyce Country Gaeltacht area in North Galway.

There are currently 30 Gaeltacht primary schools in Mayo. There were 42 in the mid-1960s. Fourteen of these closed down, three of them during our period. Of the fourteen primary school closures, one was in ***Belmullet A***, five were in ***Belmullet C***, four were in ***Corrán/Acaill*** and four were at ***Loch Measca***. One of the latter, closed in 1969, was amalgamated with a Galltacht school. By contrast, only one of the seven post-primary schools within the Gaeltacht area closed during our period.

The distribution of grants by subarea is shown in Table 3.23. The overall situation by the early 1980s was that just over half of the grants at both primary and post-primary level were being earned in the north, with the other half almost equally divided between the other two areas. Taking the period as a whole, the northern share of all Mayo grants remained fairly stable at primary level but its share of post-primary grants fell by 10%; exactly the opposite occurred in the south, i.e., its share of post-primary grants remained stable while its share of primary grants fell by about 10%. ***Corrán/Acaill*** thus increased its share of both primary and post-primary grants by about 10%. Within the north, there was a similar shift towards the centre (***Belmullet A***) which steadily increased its share of primary grants from 27% to 52% over our period (mostly at the expense of ***Belmullet B*** to the north) thus bringing it towards its stable 55-60% share of all northern post-primary grants.

TABLE 3.23: DISTRIBUTION OF MAYO GRANTS BY SUBAREA AND BY SCHOOL SECTOR

	PRIMARY			POST-PRIMARY		
	EARLY 1970s	LATER 1970s	EARLY 1980s	EARLY 1970s	LATER 1970s	EARLY 1980s
- BELMULLET A	38	50	87	52	47	68
- BELMULLET B	84	71	65	38	36	47
- BELMULLET C	16	13	16	2	1	0
BELMULLET (North Mayo)	138 57%	134 59%	168 54%	92 62%	84 56%	115 52%
CORRÁN/ACAILL (Mid-Mayo)	25 10%	33 14%	73 23%	21 14%	23 15%	51 23%
LOCH MEASCA (South Mayo)	78 32%	62 27%	70 23%	36 24%	42 28%	53 24%
" " of which Galltacht	[3]	[1]	[0]	[21]	[16]	[14]
TOTAL MAYO	241 100	229 100	311 100	149 100	149 100	219 100

Similar geographical contraction of grant earners is apparent throughout the county as a whole, at both primary and post-primary levels: so much so indeed, that if the £10 grant figures mean anything at all, then most of the official Mayo Gaeltacht can only be described as a fiction.

As many as 81% of all grants earned in ***Belmullet A*** Gaeltacht primary schools during our period were concentrated in just one of the six local Gaeltacht schools; in ***Belmullet B***, one of seven local schools accounted for 85% of local grants; while one of the four ***Belmullet C*** schools accounted for 69% of local grants. At second level, only about 10% of students in the two ***Belmullet A*** schools usually earned the grant, with only about half of the students in the ***Belmullet B*** school usually qualifying. The only second level Gaeltacht school in ***Belmullet C*** (with about 2% grant performance) closed in 1980.

In ***Corrán/Acaill***, primary grant performance increased in most of the nine local Gaeltacht schools over our period but still constituted only 20-25% of pupils in the three highest-scoring schools by the early 1980s, with the situation very much lower in the other six. Post-primary grant performance doubled over our period in the two local schools but still constituted only about 10-15% of students by the early 1980s.

In ***Loch Measca*** Gaeltacht primary schools, about a third of all pupils regularly earned the grant throughout our period. However, grant performance ranged widely between the four schools involved. In the early 1970s, it was 78% in the highest-scoring school and only 7% in the lowest. By the early 1980s, the figures were more uniform: two thirds in the two southernmost schools compared with a fifth in the two northernmost schools. A small number of grants earned in Galltacht primary schools were no longer being earned after the mid-1970s. Similarly, at post-primary level, Galltacht grants earned in three Ballinrobe schools fell by a third to 14 p.a. In the only local post-primary Gaeltacht school, grant numbers and performance more than doubled over our period but had reached only 39 (21%) by the early 1980s.

All of this data suggests that the Mayo Gaeltacht has contracted almost to the point of extinction. Table 3.24 summarises the situation in the early 1980s.

TABLE 3.24: SUMMARY OF GRANT PERFORMANCE IN MAYO SCHOOLS IN THE EARLY 1980s

	70%+	61-70%	26-60%	16-25%	6-15%	0-5%
Primary schools ([illegible]30)	0	4	0	6	3	17
Post-Primary schools ([illegible]	0	0	1	2	3	0

We will now proceed to examine the situation within each of the five areas.

Subarea Analysis

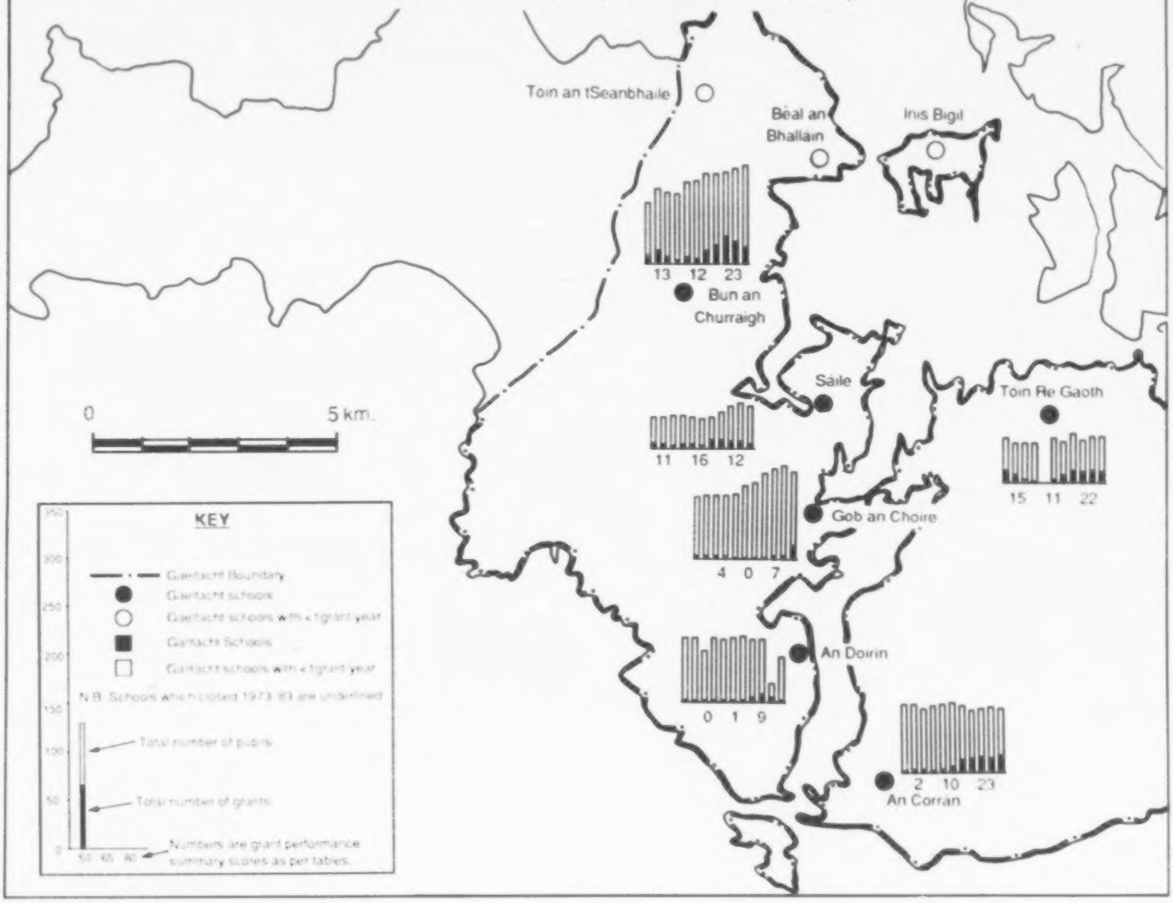
North Mayo (Belmullet) Primary Grants

Belmullet A: Two of the six local Gaeltacht primary schools here registered no grants at all during our period. (One of these, **Clochar na Trócaire: Naíonáin** contained 42% under six year olds in 1979/80, but this is still less than half of the school population). A third, with about 70 pupils enrolled each year, registered only three grants over the entire period; while a fourth school, **Béal an Mhuirthead**, registered an average of four grants p.a. out of an annual enrolment of 160-200. A fifth, **An Chorrchloch**, with an average enrolment of 50-70, had no grant qualifiers until 1976/7; thereafter, about eight grants p.a. were earned until 1983/4, when the figure shot up to 25 for some unknown reason. The final school, **An Eachléim**, at the southernmost tip of the peninsula, is the most isolated, and accounted for 81% of the 624 Belmullet A grants during our period. Average enrolment rose from 78 pupils in the first three years, to 110-115 thereafter. Grant numbers remained fairly stable at 35 to 39 p.a. in the 1970s, falling as a percentage of the rising population from 45% to 34%, but they shot up to 69 (or 61%) in the early 1980s. This too is perplexing.

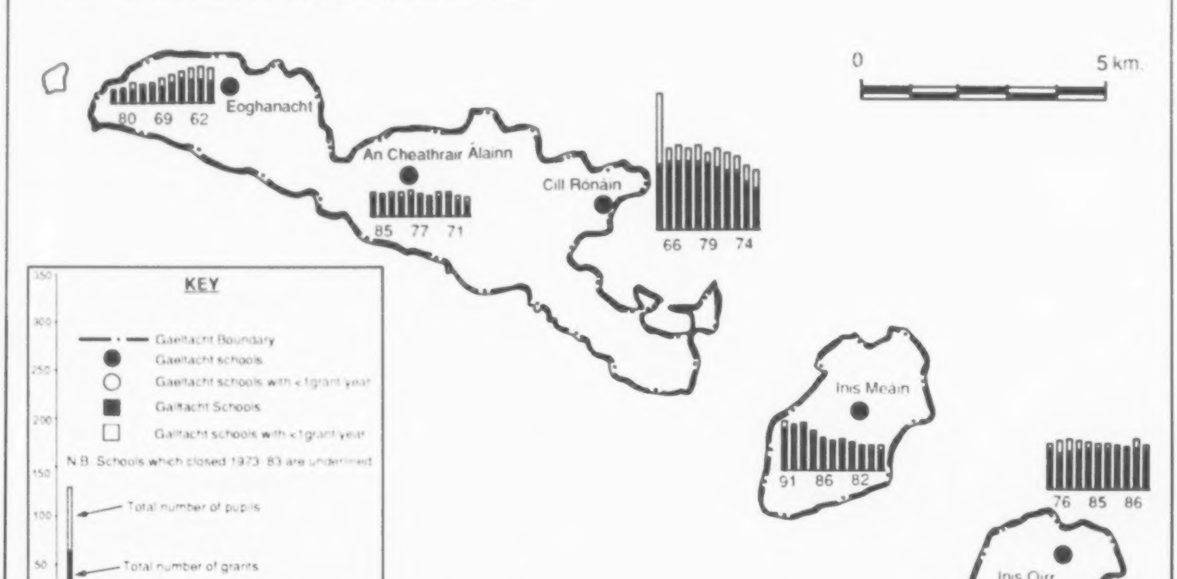
Belmullet B: No grants at all were paid in respect of pupils attending three of the seven Gaeltacht primary schools in this area during our period; a total of seven grants were earned over the entire period in a fourth; an average of two grants p.a. were earned by pupils in a fifth school with an annual enrolment of 80-120. Hence, almost all the grant recipients in this area attended two schools: **Ros Dumhach** and **Ceathrú Thaidhg**. In **Ros Dumhach**, average enrolment fell by 15% over our period but grant numbers and performance plumetted from 15 p.a. (20%) to only four p.a. (7%). **Ceathrú Thaidhg** accounted for 85% of all Belmullet B grants during our period (679 out of 803). Again, it is situated in a remote area, surrounded by mountain and sea. Even here, however, grant performance declined, from 86% to 70% of a fairly stable population of ca. 80.

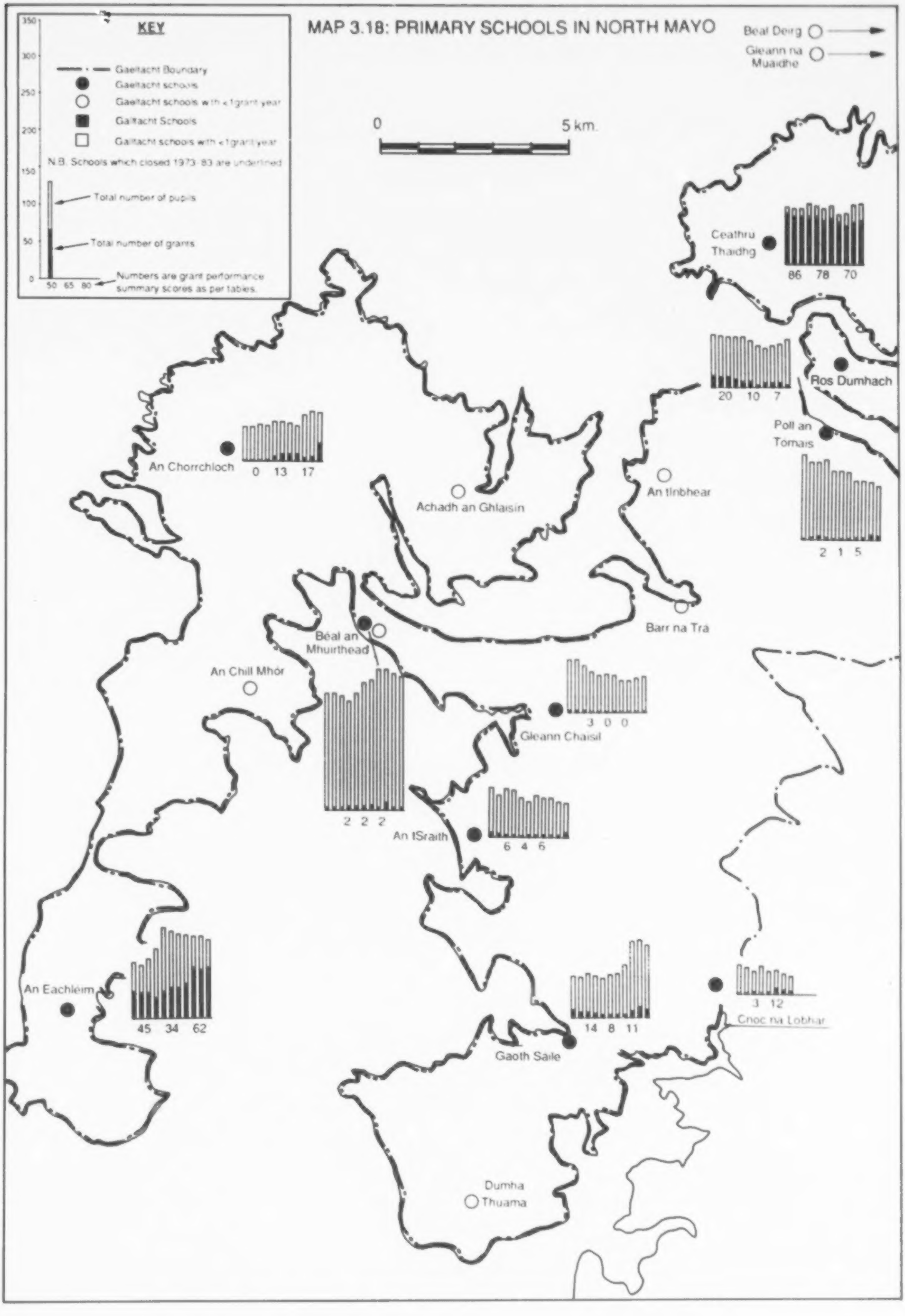
Belmullet C: The annual total of grants paid in respect of primary pupils in this whole area was never higher than 19 during our period and was as low as seven on one occasion. There are four Gaeltacht schools, one of which, **Gaoth Sáile**, is the result of an amalgamation of two other Gaeltacht schools in 1981. This school and its predecessors accounted for 69% of the 159 grants paid in this area throughout our period but only a tenth of its stable population of ca. 100 regularly earned the grant.

MAP 3.17: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN MID MAYO (CORRÁN AND ACAILL)



MAP 3.13: PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON ÁRAINN





MAP 3.18: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN NORTH MAYO

North Mayo Post-Primary Grants

Grants were paid in respect of students attending four post-primary schools in this area during our period. They were all within the official Gaeltacht. In ***Belmullet A*** (Béal an Mhuirthead), about 70 grant qualifiers were divided 2:1 between a mixed-sex secondary school and a vocational school. Grant numbers declined seriously in both of these in the mid 1970s but rose again to surpass the earlier levels. Nonetheless, grant performance remained below 15% in the secondary school and never exceeded 10% in the vocational school. The only post-primary school attended by grant earners in ***Belmullet B*** is the vocational school at **Ros Dumhach**, which had been an all-Irish secondary school until the early 1970s. In this small, expanding school, grant numbers rose from 38 to 47 over our period but grant performance remained at about one half: this was nonetheless by far the highest proportion in any Mayo post-primary school. The only ***Belmullet C*** school attended by grant earners was the vocational school at **Gaoth Sáile** but it never contained more than three grant qualifiers in any given year prior to its closure i 1980.

TABLE 3.25: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN BELMULLET (NORTH MAYO) SCHOOLS, SHOWING (a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND (c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
BELMULLET A:	38			50			87		
An Eachléim	35	78	45%	39	115	34%	69	112	62%
An Chorrchloch	0	50	0%	7	54	13%	12	69	17%
Béal an Mhuirthead	3	163	2%	4	175	2%	5	193	2%
3 other Gaeltacht schools	0			0			1		
BELMULLET B:	84			71			65		
Ceathrú Thaidhg	67	78	86%	62	79	78%	56	80	70%
Ros Dumhach	15	73	20%	7	64	10%	4	62	7%
5 other Gaeltacht schools	2			2			5		
BELMULLET C:	16			13			16		
Gaoth Sáile	10	99	10%	9	97	9%	12	107	11%
3 other Gaeltacht schools	6			4			4		
TOTAL PRIMARY	138			134			168		

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
BELMULLET A:									
Béal an Mhuirthead:									
- Clochar	34	352	10%	28	335	8%	44	340	13%
- Gairmscoil	18	212	8%	19	252	7%	24	293	8%
BELMULLET B:									
GS Ros Dumhach	38	71	53%	36	73	49%	47	84	56%
BELMULLET C:									
GS Gaoth Sáile	2	83	2%	1	40	2%	CLOSED IN 1980		
TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	92	718	13%	84	700	12%	115	717	16%

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Mid-Mayo (Corrán/Acaill Area)

This area contains nine Gaeltacht primary schools. One of them is a tiny school on the small island of Inis Bigil off the northeast coast of Acaill. Acaill itself contains six schools. The remaining two are on Corrán. No closures or amalgamations occurred during our period. Primary grant numbers fell from ca. 30 p.a. in the first two years of our period to about half that figure for the next four years; the following year (1979/80), this figure shot up to 47 grants and the four subsequent years ranged from 67-76 p.a. Grant performance improved in almost all schools but remained below one quarter. Post-primary grant qualifiers in this Mid-Mayo Gaeltacht were fairly evenly divided between a mixed-sex secondary and a vocational school, both on Acaill. Despite growing school populations, grant performance doubled in each of them over our period but was still only 16% and 12% respectively by the early 1980s.

No grants at all were paid in respect of pupils attending the island school of **Inis Bigil**. In northern Acaill, no grants were earned by pupils attending **Tóin an tSeanbhaile** until 1983/4, when six out of 52 pupils received grants. **Béal an Bhalláin** had no grants before 1979/80 but up to five p.a. were paid thereafter out of an annual enrolment of 35-45 pupils. In southern Acaill, only two grants had been paid at **An Doirín** in the seven years to 1979/80; four to eight grants p.a. were paid for the the next three years, and then it was down to one for the final year (1983/4). This followed a drastic fall in enrolment: from a very stable population of ca. 70, it fell suddenly to 21 in 1982/3 and had only recovered to 50 by 1983/4. Perhaps there is some movement between this school and **Gob an Choire**, where annual enrolment had steadily increased from ca. 70 to 100 by the early 1980s. Here, a total of only 13 grants were earned over the first ten years of our period but this shot up to 15 in the final year, 1983/4.

TABLE 3.26: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN CORRÁN/ACAILL (MID-MAYO) SCHOOLS SHOWING (a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND (c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Tóin Re Gaoth	7	45	15%	5	47	11%	11	50	22%
An Corrán	1	73	2%	7	73	10%	16	70	23%
Sáile	4	36	11%	6	37	16%	6	49	12%
Bun an Churraigh	10	76	13%	11	91	12%	24	105	23%
5 other Gaeltacht schools	3			4			16		
TOTAL PRIMARY	25			33			73		

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
MS Damhnait, Acaill	11	132	8%	12	119	10%	24	150	16%
GS Caiseal, "	10	168	6%	11	185	6%	27	232	12%
TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	21	300	7%	23	304	8%	51	382	13%

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Sáile and **Bun an Churraigh** lie between the two northern and the two southern Acaill schools. Together, they accounted for 73% of the 285 Acaill grants during our period. **Sáile** accounted for 30% of the combined enrolment of these two schools and contributed 30% of the combined grants total as well. Prior to 1979/80, the average grants figure in **Sáile** had been 12% (i.e., about four grants each year out of an average enrolment of 36); thereafter, it rose to 17% (i.e., about seven grants each year out of an increased average enrolment of 45). In **Bun an Churraigh** grant performance prior to 1979/80 had been 9% (ca. seven grants out of an average enrolment of 81); thereafter, it rose to 20% (21 grants out of an average enrolment of 103).

The two final schools in this area are on Corrán. Again, both seem to have 'taken off' as far as grants figures are concerned in 1979/80. Unlike **Sáile** and **Bun an Churraigh**, however, the school populations remained fairly stable. The school at **Tóin Re Gaoth** had a stable population of 43-51 throughout our period but grant numbers fell from 12 in the first year, to an average of two p.a. over the next five years; to be followed from 1979/80 onwards, by an average of eleven p.a. The school at **An Corrán** also had a stable population (67-75) throughout our period and an average two grants p.a. before 1979/80; but again, it rose sharply thereafter, in this case to fifteen p.a.

South Mayo (Loch Measca Area)

As late as 1969, there were eight Gaeltacht primary schools in South Mayo, sandwiched between the Partry mountains and the western shores of Loch Measca. Today there are four. The first to close, **Doire an Daimh Dheirg**, amalgamated in 1969 - not with **An tSraith**, the northernmost surviving Gaeltacht school just below it - but with a Galltacht school. Another, **Gleann Sáil**, was amalgamated with **An Trian Láir** in 1974. **Coill an tSiáin** remained untouched while **Páirc an Doire**, the southernmost surviving Gaeltacht school in Mayo, includes two other Gaeltacht schools which were amalgamated with it in 1972: **Fionnaithe** and **Seanadh Faracháin** (the latter technically in Co. Galway).

Primary grant performance was stable at about one third throughout our period but the population of Gaeltacht schools declined by about 10%. The southern area around **Páirc an Doire** appears to be the source of this population decline. Its average population of 51 in the early 1970s had fallen to 25 by the early 1980s. Grant numbers and performance also declined, from 40 to 16 grants p.a. (78% to 64%) over the period. These figures may or may not reflect the 1972 amalgamations, either boosting the figures temporarily or leading to their long-term decline. We do not have the data to test this. However, the figures from **Coill an tSiáin**, further up the road, suggest that there may have been some movement of Irish speakers between these two schools; for while average enrolment in **Coill an tSiáin** remained remarkably stable throughout our period, grant numbers and performance increased substantially, from an average of 20 (50%) in the first four years, to 30 (71%) over the rest of the period. In **An Trian Láir** (incorporating **Gleann Sáil**), grant qualifiers were invariably no more than five p.a. out of a population of 80-85 until the final three years when they jumped to fourteen. In the final school at **An tSraith**, grant qualifiers averaged eleven p.a. out of a stable population of 38-51 but fluctuated with no apparent pattern, the most extreme variation being from four to seventeen in two consecutive years. A mere fourteen grants were paid in respect of pupils attending non-Gaeltacht primary schools during our period but none have been paid since the mid-1970s.

TABLE 3.27: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN LOCH MEASCA (SOUTH MAYO) SCHOOLS SHOWING (a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND (c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Páirc an Doire	40	51	78%	16	32	50%	16	25	64%
Coill an tSiáin	19	41	46%	29	39	74%	30	44	68%
An Trian Láir	6	85	7%	4	81	5%	14	79	18%
An tSraith	10	41	24%	12	46	26%	10	46	22%
Gaeltacht subtotal	75	218	34%	61	198	32%	70	194	36%
* 3 Galltacht schools	3			1			0		
TOTAL PRIMARY	78			62			70		

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
Coláiste Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	15	193	8%	26	196	13%	39	182	21%
*Baile an Róba:									
- *Gairmscoil	12		(5%)	11		(5%)	5		(3%)
- *MS na mBráithre	9		(5%)	5		(3%)	8		(4%)
- *Cl na Trócaire	0			0			1		
TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	36			42			53		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

Post-primary grant qualifiers attended four Loch Measca schools during our period. Only one of these was a Gaeltacht school, **Tuar Mhic Éadaigh**, on the western shore of Loch Measca. In this all-Irish, girls-only secondary school, grant performance more than doubled over our period but grant earners still constituted only a fifth of its students by the early 1980s. Given that this is the only secondary school left in County Mayo where Irish is taught as more than just a subject, it follows that Mayo boys cannot receive an Irish medium secondary education in their own county. The three Galltacht schools where grants were earned were in Ballinrobe, well to the east of Loch Measca. Grant qualifiers usually constituted less than 5% of total enrolment in each of them. As grant numbers are declining in these schools, and as the number of girls earning grants at **Tuar Mhic Éadaigh** is growing, the nature of the educational provision at second level would appear to be a contributing factor to the decline of the Mayo Gaeltacht.

Summary of the Grant Situation in Mayo

Primary grant performance continued to hover around one third in South Mayo (the ***Loch Measca*** area); in Mid-Mayo (***Corrán/Acaill***) it improved, but was still under a quarter even in the best of the schools; while in North Mayo (***Belmullet***) it was under a fifth in fifteen of the seventeen Gaeltacht schools. Post-primary grant performance improved in South Mayo, but just to a fifth; in Mid-Mayo it doubled, but just to about one in eight; and in North Mayo, it remained stable, but only at about one in eight in ***Belmullet A*** and at about one half in ***Belmullet B***. Thus while the situation at post-primary level was somewhat better than at primary level, the overall situation in Mayo was of overall decline - or growth - to fairly low levels of grant performance.

3.2.5 County Analysis: Kerry

The Kerry Gaeltacht is located on the two northernmost Kerry peninsulae i.e., ***Corca Dhuibhne*** (Corkaguiney) and below it, ***Uíbh Ráthach*** (Iveragh). Average primary grant numbers fell from 573 p.a. in the early 1970s to 442 in the early 1980s while post-primary grants rose more modestly, from 392 to 428. The ***Corca Dhuibhne*** share of all Kerry grants rose by about 10% over our period (from 77% to 88% at primary level and from 73% to 83% at post primary level) with the ***Uíbh Ráthach*** share declining accordingly.

Corca Dhuibhne: The Gaeltacht area covers the west of the peninsula. The interior is mountainous and the population is concentrated along the coast. The main town is An Daingean (Dingle: pop. ca. 1400). An area near Caisleán Ghriaire (Castlegregory, in the north-central part of the peninsula) was added to the Gaeltacht area in 1974. As this coincided with the beginning of our period, grant data from the local schools are complete for the eleven years examined and are included in the analyses.

At primary level, there were no closures, amalgamations or additions to the stock of twelve Gaeltacht primary schools over our period and only a few grants were paid in respect of children attending two non-Gaeltacht primary schools. Excluding 1973/4, which was an exceptional year, annual enrolment in Gaeltacht primary schools was fairly stable (790-812) and grant performance fell only slightly, from an average 53% in the 1970s to 47% in the early 1980s.

One of the four Gaeltacht post-primary schools is in the new area incorporated in 1974, while the other three were in Dingle town. One of the Dingle schools closed in 1984, at the close of our period, but again, there is complete data for the period examined.

The ***Corca Dhuibhne*** analysis is based on five subareas as follows:

Corca Dhuibhne A: The small area in the north-central part of the peninsula, near Caisleán Ghriaire (Castlegregory) added to the Gaeltacht in 1974. It contains one primary and one second level Gaeltacht school.

***Corca Dhuibhne B*:** The northwestern Gaeltacht area around Smerwick Harbour. It contains three Gaeltacht primary schools but no second level school.

***Corca Dhuibhne C*:** The Gaeltacht area west of An Daingean (Dingle town). It contains four Gaeltacht primary schools but no second level school.

***Corca Dhuibhne D*:** The Gaeltacht town of An Daingean. It contains two primary schools and three post-primary schools, one of which closed in 1984.

***Corca Dhuibhne E*:** The area east of An Daingean. It contains two Gaeltacht primary schools but no Gaeltacht post-primary school.

TABLE 3.28: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN CORCA DHUIBHNE SCHOOLS, SHOWING (a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND (c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
CORCA DHUIBHNE A:	24			47			21		
An Clochán	24	80	30%	45	71	63%	20	60	33%
*Abha an Chaisle	0			2			1		
CORCA DHUIBHNE B:	221	269	82%	186	236	79%	175	227	77%
Baile an Fheirtéaraigh	96	118	81%	84	107	78%	76	94	81%
An Fheothanach	88	105	84%	68	82	83%	58	75	77%
Smeirbhic	37	46	80%	34	47	72%	41	58	71%
CORCA DHUIBHNE C:	86	120	72%	76	119	64%	92	144	64%
Dún Chaoin	3	5	-	9	16	-	16	25	64%
Cill Mhic an Domhnaigh	16	21	76%	10	19	53%	11	22	50%
Ceann Trá	46	64	72%	39	58	67%	42	65	65%
Na Gleannta	21	30	70%	18	26	69%	23	32	72%
CORCA DHUIBHNE D:	24	229	10%	37	253	15%	42	263	16%
An Daingean: Clochar	15	147	10%	21	177	12%	29	183	16%
An Daingean: Bráithre	9	82	11%	16	76	21%	13	80	16%
CORCA DHUIBHNE E:	81	125	65%	76	119	64%	54	108	50%
Cluain Churtha	34	54	63%	35	60	58%	30	74	40%
Caisleán na Mine Áirde	47	71	66%	41	59	69%	24	34	71%
*An Bhreac-chluain	4			4			4		
Gaeltacht subtotal	436	824	53%	421	799	53%	382	806	47%
*Galltacht grants	4			6			5		
TOTAL PRIMARY	440			427			387		

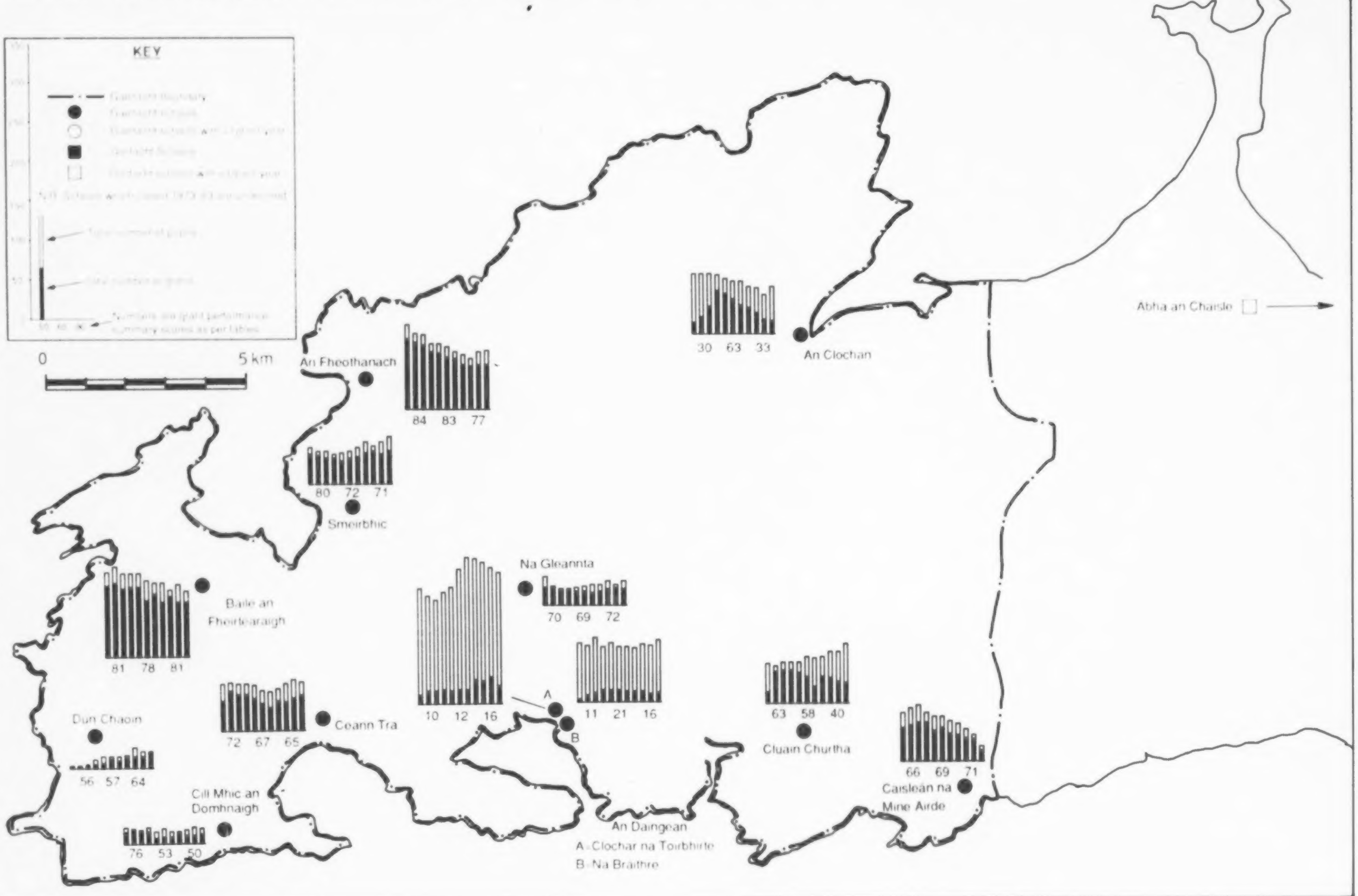
POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
CORCA DHUIBHNE A:									
MS Leith Triúigh	9	104	9%	28	79	35%	28	86	33%
CORCA DHUIBHNE D:									
An Daingean	278	405	69%	297	399	74%	329	443	74%
- Ceardscoil	57	81	70%	45	64	70%	38	51	74%
- MS na mBráithre	104	159	65%	111	154	72%	131	184	71%
- CL na Toirbhirte	117	165	71%	141	181	78%	160	208	77%
TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	287	509	56%	325	478	68%	357	529	67%

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

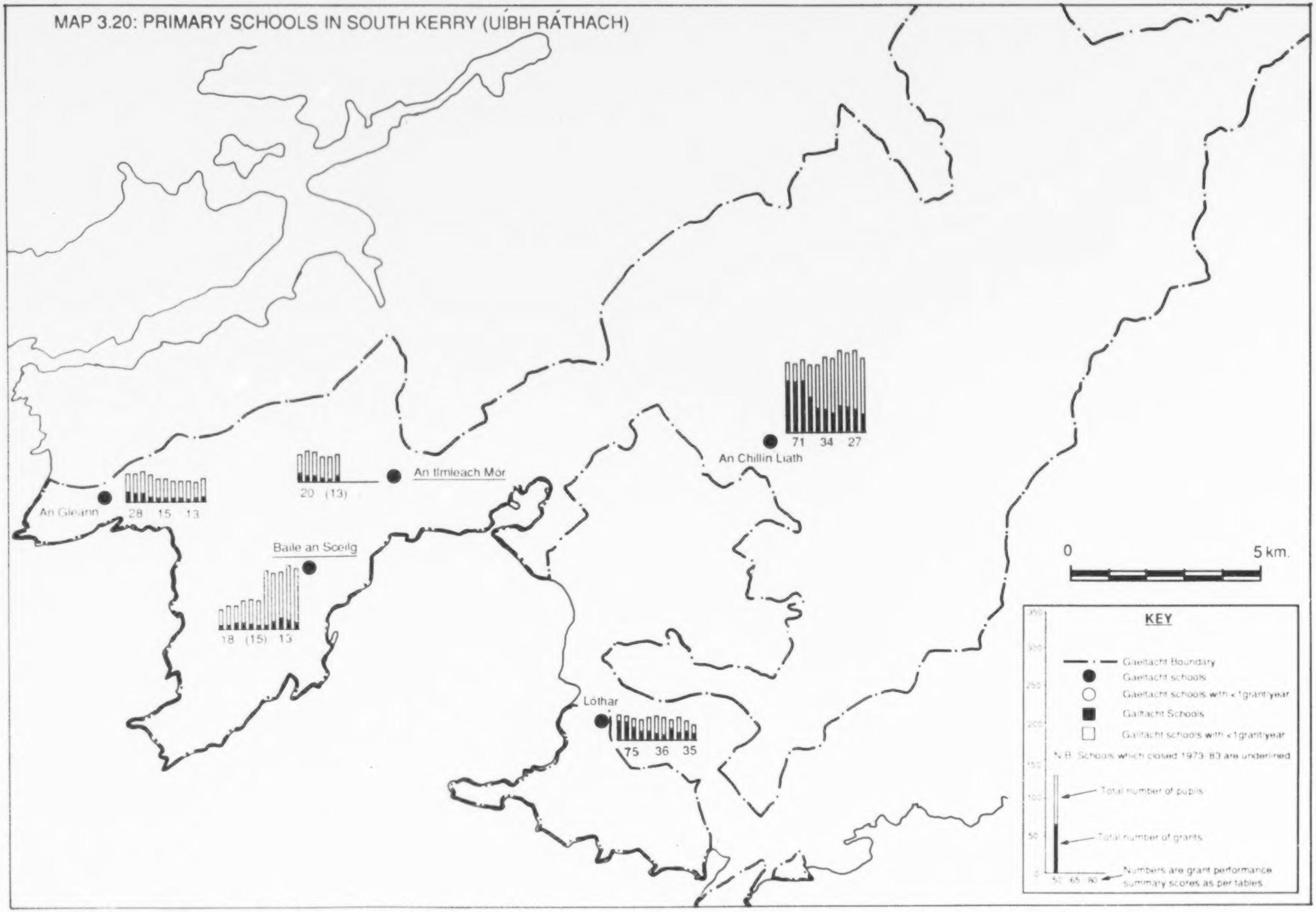
***Corca Dhuibhne A*:** This area was added to the official Gaeltacht in 1974, at the beginning of our period. While it is contiguous with Corca Dhuibhne B, it is effecively isolated from it by Mount Brandon. It is served by one Gaeltacht primary school, **An Clochán**, and by one secondary school, **Leith Triuigh**, which serves both boys and girls. School enrolments fell somewhat in both schools over our period. Following the incorporation of the area into the official Gaeltacht in 1974, primary grant performance doubled rapidly to two thirds at **An Clochán** but reverted just as quickly to a third. Despite a falling school population, it would appear that this can be best explained in terms of 'unrequited encouragement' for the new Gaeltacht which could not be justified beyond the end of the 1970s. (The paucity of grants earned at **Abha an Chaisle**, a non-Gaeltacht school to the east, rules out the possibility of Irish speakers having moved to that school from **An Clochán**). An even greater relative increase in performance occurred at **Leith Triúigh**, where average post-primary grant numbers trebled to 28, or from a tenth to a third of the school population. However, while this level was maintained into the 1980s, the demographic decline at primary level would appear to suggest that it cannot be sustained much longer from the local catcment area. On the other hand, while average enrolment in this school fell from 104 to 79 during the 1970s, there was a slight recovery to 86 by the early 1980s.

***Corca Dhuibhne B*:** The three primary schools in this subarea accounted for 56% of all Corca Dhuibhne primary grants in the first three years of our period, falling to about 45% thereafter. Two of the schools, **Baile An Fheirtéaraigh** and **An Fheothanach**, have had the highest grant performance of any Kerry school throughout our period but whereas grant performance remained above 75%, the school populations declined steadily and substantially. In the third school, **Smeirbhic**, grant numbers remained fairly stable but fell from 80% to 70% of a rising school population (this rise in population was considerably lower than the population decline in the two other local schools). In any case, students in this strongest Kerry Gaeltacht area, are obliged to go elsewhere for second level education, presumably to more anglicised areas.

MAP 3.19: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN NORTH KERRY (CORCA DHUIBHNE)



MAP 3.20: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SOUTH KERRY (UÍBH RÁTHACH)



Corca Dhuibhne C: This Gaeltacht area lies to the west of Corca Duibhne D. Three of the four local primary schools have had consistently tiny pupil numbers, averaging well under 33 throughout our period. **Dún Chaoin**, isolated in the far west of the peninsula, was saved from closure amid national controversy just prior to our period; but although its population quintupled to 25 p.a. by the early 1980s, the numbers up to that point were so low that it would not be advisable to summarise trends in grant performance. At **Cill Mhic An Domhnaigh** grant performance fell from three quarters to a half over the period but here again the numbers are too small to speak in terms of trends. School populations and grant performance were stable at **Ceann Trá** and at **Na Gleannta** (ca. 70%). The area has no second level school.

Corca Dhuibhne D: Primary grant performance in the town of An Daingean improved somewhat over the period, but only from ca. 10% to 15% in each of the two primary schools involved (grants doubled in **Clochar Na Toirbhirte** where the school population grew substantially, whereas in **Na Bráithre**, both school numbers and grant numbers were stable). Three of the four Corca Dhuibhne post-primary schools where grants were earned during our period are in An Daingean. One of these four, the vocational school, closed in 1984, just as our period ended. Prior to its closure, grant performance had been fairly stable at 70-74% but the school population had been falling. (Its closure means that all post-primary Corca Dhuibhne grant earners now attend secondary schools). Grant numbers and performance rose in the boys' school over our period from 104 to 131 (66% to 71%); while in the girls' school, the increase was from 117 to 160 (71% to 77%). It remains to be seen if these schools will absorb the 38 or so grants p.a. that were being earned in the vocational school prior to its closure. While the three post-primary schools in An Daingean constantly accounted for over 90% of all grants earned in second level schools on the peninsula, the two primary schools in the town only accounted for about 10% of primary grants by the early 1980s, despite doubling their share of these grants over our period.

Corca Dhuibhne E: East of An Daingean, grant numbers were fairly stable at **Cluain Churtha** but fell from 63% to 40% of the rising school population. At **Caisleán Na Mine Airde**, grant performance remained stable at just over two thirds but the school population was halved. Finally, a few grants were earned each year at **An Bhreac-chluain**, which is a non-Gaeltacht school.

Uíbh Ráthach: Grant performance declined throughout this Gaeltacht, especially in those schools where it had been highest at the beginning of our period. By contrast with Corca Dhuibhne, only one of the thirteen local Gaeltacht primary schools in the mid-1960s has not closed or had another school amalgamated with it, leaving just four primary schools within the Gaeltacht area. (Three of the ten schools which closed just prior to our period were amalgamated with Galltacht schools). Total annual enrolment in local Gaeltacht primary schools remained stable over the period (238-260) but grant performance fell from a half to less than a quarter. However, this average figure is about 30% in **Lóthar** and **An Chillín Liath**, the two easterly schools near Loch Corrán, but just above 10% in **An Gleann** and **Baile an Sceilg**, west of Ballinskelligs Bay.

TABLE 3.29: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN UÍBH RÁTHACH SCHOOLS, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Lóthar	33	44	75%	12	33	36%	9	26	35%
An Chillín Liath	70	99	71%	34	102	34%	30	110	27%
An Gleann	12	42	28%	5	34	15%	4	31	13%
Baile an Sceilg	14	74	19%	9	81	11%	11	85	13%
Gaeltacht subtotal	129	260	50%	60	248	24%	55	252	22%
*Galltacht grants	4			3			0		
TOTAL PRIMARY	133			63			55		

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
*Cathair Saidhbhín									
- *Ceardscoil	19	188	10%	13	161	8%	8	147	5%
- *MS na mBráithre	22	145	15%	14	138	10%	9	125	7%
- *MS Eoin Bosco	24	202	12%	22	221	10%	19	230	8%
*CS An Coireán	40	89	45%	27	99	27%	36	167	22%
*TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	105	624	17%	76	620	12%	72	669	11%

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

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Again, in total contrast with Corca Dhuibhne, none of the four local *post-primary* schools attended by grant earners are within the official Gaeltacht. Two vocational and two secondary schools are involved. Three of the four schools are in **Cahirciveen** (Cathair Saidhbhín) and grant numbers and performance are in rapid decline in them all. In the boys' secondary school, average grant numbers fell from 22 to 9 (15% to 7%) between the early 1970s and the early 1980s; in the girls' secondary school it fell from 24 to 19 (12% to 8%); while in the vocational school it fell from 19 to 8 (10% to 5%).

Together then, grant numbers in the three Cahirciveen schools were almost halved, from 65 p.a. in the early 1970s to 35 in the early 1980s, by which time they constituted less than 10% of students in each of these schools. Cahirciveen lies closer to the 'weaker' than to the 'stronger' primary schools. The final school is the vocational school at **An Coireán**, which is somewhat closer physically to the Gaeltacht than Cahirciveen is, and, moreover, is situated in a central position between the two 'stronger' primary schools. Here, the early 1980s grants figure of 36 p.a. (equal to the combined Cahirciveen figure) was almost as high as it had been in the early 1970s, having fallen heavily in the late 1970s. However, grant performance, which rose dramatically from the late 1970s onwards, was steadily halved, from 45% in the early 1970s to 21% in the early 1980s.

Summary of the Grant Situation in Kerry

At primary level, the only area where grant performance remained at three quarters or above was in the neighbouring schools at Baile an Fheirtéaraigh and Baile na nGall in the extreme northwest of Corca Dhuibhne, around Smeirbhic harbour. As in the island heartland of the Galway Gaeltacht, this heartland area of the Kerry Gaeltacht was subject to a falling primary school population. Elsewhere in Corca Dhuibhne, with the important exception of Dingle town (An Daingean) and of the northeastern part of the peninsula which only became a Gaeltacht area in 1974, grant performance was generally fairly stable at about two thirds.

The fact that post-primary students from all over the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht (and possibly further afield) were forced to travel to An Daingean to further their education is probably reflected in the contrast between grant performance at primary level (16%) and at post-primary level (about three quarters) in the schools of that town.

By contrast with Corca Dhuibhne, grant performance on the Uíbh Ráthach peninsula was in headlong decline in all primary and post-primary schools. Here, by the early 1980s, only one primary school was scoring even one third whereas two schools had been above 70% less than a decade earlier. Although there was no post-primary school within the Gaeltacht area of Uíbh Ráthach, grant numbers in the local Galltacht post-primary schools usually exceeded those earned in the Gaeltacht primary schools: but as these post-primary grants were spread between four different schools, the highest profile of grant qualifiers in any one of them was only a fifth of the host school population (up to the mid 1970s it had been a half).

MAP 3.21: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN CORK

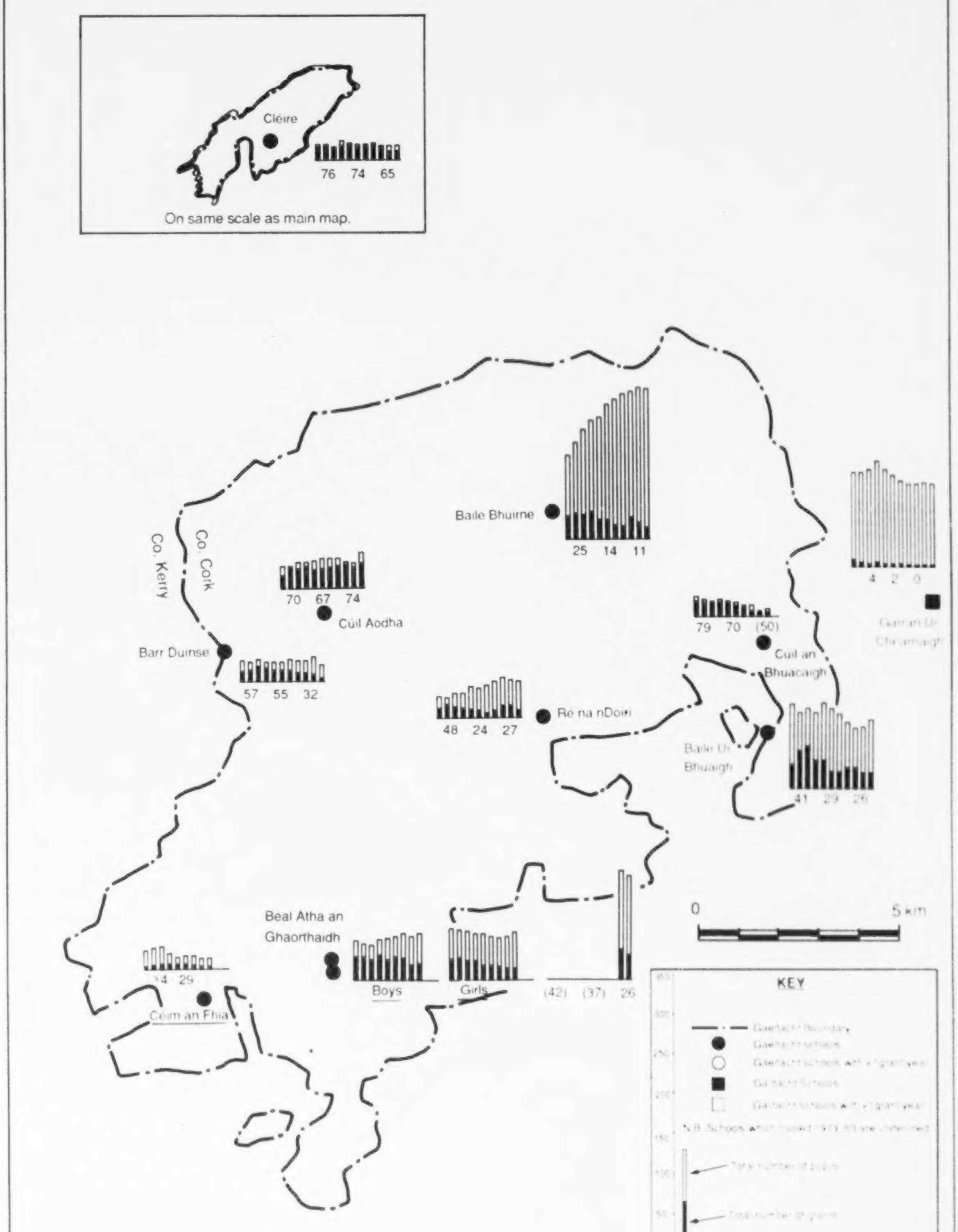

TABLE 3.30: SUMMARY GRANT SITUATION IN CORK SCHOOLS, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Barr Duínse	16	28	57%	15	27	55%	9	28	32%
Cúil Aodha	23	33	70%	26	39	67%	29	39	74%
Baile Bhuirne	32	130	25%	24	176	14%	22	200	11%
Ré na nDoirí	15	31	48%	10	42	24%	14	52	27%
Cúil an Bhuacaigh	19	24	79%	14	20	70%	5	10	50% (2 yrs.)
Baile Uí Bhuaigh	44	106	41%	29	102	29%	22	85	26%
Garrán Uí Chearnaigh	5	125	4%	3	121	2%	0	113	0%
Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh	60	144	42%	51	136	37%	37	141	26%
Cléire	16	21	76%	17	23	74%	13	20	65%
Gaeltacht subtotal	230	642	36%	189	686	28%	149	688	22%
*Galltacht grants	4			1			0		
TOTAL PRIMARY	234			190			149		

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
Baile Bhuirne:									
- Coláiste Íosagáin	27	226	12%	62	254	24%	66	247	27%
- Ceardscoil	66	113	58%	62	118	52%	44	124	35%
CS Béal Átha An Ghaorthaidh	40	70	57%	52	82	63%	47	87	54%
Gaeltacht subtotal	133	409	32%	176	454	39%	157	458	34%
*Maigh Chromtha									
- *Ceardscoil	1			2			2		
- *Cl na Trócaire	8		(3%)	9		(3%)	7		(2%)
- *MS De La Salle	0			3		(1%)	0		
TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	142			190			166		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

3.2.6 County Analysis: Cork

Primary Grants

Grants were paid in respect of pupils in fifteen Cork primary schools during our period, one of which is a new school incorporating three of the others. At least three of the other eleven are non-Gaeltacht schools. School populations were fairly stable in the west (Barr Duínse and Cúil Aodha) and south (Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh and the island school Cléire); they rose in the centre (Baile Bhuirne and Ré na nDoirí) and they fell in the east (Cúil an Bhuacaigh, Baile Uí Bhuaigh and Garrán Uí Chearnaigh). There was a serious decline in both grant numbers and performance in every school except Cúil Aodha, although the smallness of some schools must be taken into account. By the early 1980s, between a quarter and a third of pupils were earning the grant in all Cork Gaeltacht primary schools except Cléire (65%) and Cúil Aodha (74%), but both of these are small schools.

Post-Primary Grants

Average post-primary grant numbers were higher in the early 1980s than in the early 1970s (166 to 143) although they had been even higher still in the second half of the 1970s (189). The mixed-sex secondary school and the vocational school at Baile Bhuirne regularly accounted for two thirds of the grants; the vocational school in Béal Átha An Ghaorthaidh for 28%, and the remaining 6% or so (rarely more than a dozen students p.a.) were divided among a vocational school and two single-sex secondary schools to the east of the Gaeltacht at Macroom. Grant earners rarely exceeded 3% of total enrolment in any of the Macroom schools.

In **Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh** (which changed from secondary to vocational status in 1976) grant numbers rose rapidly to almost 60 p.a. in the mid 1970s but fell back to 47 p.a. during the early 1980s, accounting for almost two thirds of enrolment in the second half of the 1970s, but for just over 50% in the early 1980s. At **Baile Bhuirne**, grant numbers and performance more than doubled between the early 1970s and the early 1980s in the secondary school (from 27 to 66, or from 12% to 27%) but in the vocational school they declined (from 66 to 44, or from 58% to 35%). Thus in the Cork Gaeltacht there is only one school where half of the students now qualify for the grant; another where a third qualify (but which is becoming more anglicised); and a third where just over a quarter of the students has become the norm for grant qualification. Moreover, the greatest physical concentration of grant earners is in schools where their representation among the student population is least.

Summary of the Grant Situation in Cork

Primary grant performance declined from a third to a fifth over our period. The decline was substantial in ten of the eleven primary schools, the exception being Cúil Aodha, where grant performance had risen slightly to 74% by the early 1980s. With the exception of Cléire off the south coast which had declined to two thirds, grant performance in the rest of Cork primary schools had declined to one third or less by the 1980s. The overall situation at post-primary level remained fairly stable at one third but the distribution of grant earners between the three Gaeltacht schools involved changed.

TABLE 3.31: SUMMARY GRANT PERFORMANCE IN WATERFORD SCHOOLS, SHOWING (a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND (c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
An Rinn	51	108	47%	61	105	58%	64	104	61%
Baile Mhac Airt	25	48	52%	24	54	44%	29	60	48%
Scoil na Leanbh	1	182	-	1	181	-	2	181	1%
TOTAL PRIMARY	77			86			95		

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
MS Nioclás, An Rinn	22	40	55%	41	49	84%	42	47	89%
*3 Dún Garbhán schools	2			6			6		
TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	24			47			48		

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

3.2.7 County Analysis: Waterford

Primary Grants:

Grants were paid in respect of pupils attending four Waterford primary schools during our period. One of these schools is a non-Gaeltacht school where only two grants were earned throughout our eleven year period. Another, **Scoil na Leanbh** (An Rinn), is a special Irish-medium boarding school where only eighteen grants were earned throughout our period out of an annual enrolment of ca. 180 pupils (the grant earners were presumably local day-pupils entitled to apply for the grant). The other 98% of Waterford grants were shared in the ratio of 2:1 between the schools of **An Rinn** and **Baile Mhac Airt** respectively. Although grant performance appears to be improving in Waterford, there have been some rather sharp annual fluctuations which could be consistent with improving competence in Irish with length of time spent at school.

Post-Primary Grants

Following the incorporation of new areas into the Waterford Gaeltacht in 1974, average post-primary grant numbers rose rapidly from less than 20 to about 45, where they stayed throughout our period. It remains to be seen if this is yet another case of 'official encouragement' which may or may not be sustained. The vast bulk of the grants were earned by students attending **San Nioclás, An Rinn**, a small mixed-sex secondary school and the only post-primary school in this Gaeltacht. Here, grant performance regularly exceeded 80%. A small number of grants were also paid in respect of pupils attending three schools in the nearby Galltacht town of Dún Garbhán (Dungarvan). These constituted about one per cent of students in their respective schools and even if they all attended the same school they would constitute little more than this.

Summary of the Grant Situation in Waterford

Grant performance improved substantially at both primary and post-primary levels over our period. However, whereas almost 90% of students in the sole Gaeltacht post-primary school were earning grants by the early 1980s, grant performance in the best of the primary schools had risen to only 61%.

3.2.8 County Analysis: Meath

The Meath Gaeltacht consists of two small non-contiguous areas, Ráth Cairn and Baile Ghib, that were planted by families from congested western Gaeltachtaí under official auspices in the 1930s. Each area contains one primary school: **Ráth Cairn** (Ó Gramhna) and **Baile Ghib** (Domhnach Phádraig) but there is no Gaeltacht second level school. There were no closures or amalgamations of local Gaeltacht schools during our period.

Primary Grants

Primary grant numbers fluctuated considerably, from a low of 29 in 1978/9 to well over 80 four years later. Until 1981/2, grants were fairly evenly divided between **Ráth Cairn** and **Baile Ghib**. From then on however, grant numbers almost doubled overnight at Ráth Cairn and continued to rise to such an extent that grant performance was averaging 80% of an increased school population by the early 1980s. At Baile Ghib on the other hand, grant numbers remained fairly constant but grant performance increased from a quarter to a third, due to declining enrolment. The Gaeltacht status of two other primary schools is unclear - **Cill Bhríde**, Baile Átha Troim (Trim) and **Baile Óraí**, Ceanannas (Kells) - but throughout our period only thirteen grants were earned in the former and no grants at all were earned in the latter.

Post-Primary Grants

Average post-primary grant numbers fell from 33 in the 1970s to 23 in the early 1980s. Grant earners were dispersed among twelve schools in four Galltacht towns - An Uaimh, Ceanannas (Kells), Baile Átha Troim (Trim) and Athboy - in all of which Irish is taught as a subject only. Eight of these schools are secondary schools (seven of which cater for one sex only) and there is no comprehensive-type school in the county where streaming might help consolidation. Even in An Uaimh, whose share of all Meath grants rose from one fifth to three fifths over the period, the students are divided among three single-sex secondary schools and a mixed vocational school.

Summary of the Grant Situation in Meath

Primary grant performance rose substantially over our period, but the later 1970s had witnessed a serious decline subsequently reversed. The revival was mainly confined to Ráth Cairn where grant performance doubled to 80% between the later 1970s and the early 1980s; by contrast, Baile Ghib barely held its own at about a third.

As there was no post-primary school within the Meath Gaeltacht, post-primary grants were dispersed among twelve local Galltacht schools. This may help to explain why post-primary grants fell despite soaring numbers of primary grants.

TABLE 3.32: SUMMARY GRANT PERFORMANCE IN MEATH SCHOOLS, SHOWING
(a) AVERAGE GRANT NUMBERS, (b) AVERAGE SCHOOL POPULATIONS, AND
(c) AVERAGE GRANT PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SUB-PERIOD, 1973/4 - 1983/4

PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s			LATER 1970s			EARLY 1980s		
LOCATION	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
Rāth Cairn	26	45	58%	26	63	41%	60	75	80%
Baile Ghib	23	84	27%	19	78	24%	22	64	34%
Gaeltacht subtotal	49	129	38%	45	141	32%	82	139	59%
*? Two other schools	2			1			0		
TOTAL PRIMARY	51			46			82		

POST-PRIMARY LEVEL	EARLIER 1970s	LATER 1970s	EARLY 1980s
*4 An Uaimh schools	7	14	14
*3 Kells schools	5	4	4
*3 Trim schools	13	9	4
*2 Athboy schools	10	5	1
*TOTAL POST-PRIMARY	35	32	23

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for explanatory notes regarding the Table.

APPENDIX TABLE: ANNUAL GRANT NUMBERS 1973/4-1983/4 BY COUNTY AND SCHOOL SECTOR

COUNTY	YEAR SECTOR	1973/1974	1974/1975	1975/1976	1976/1977	1977/1978	1978/1979	1979/1980	1980/1981	1981/1982	1982/1983	1983/1984	TOTAL
DONEGAL	Primary	1774	1719	1882	1831	1620	1586	1730	1775	1746	1568	1474	18,705
	Post-Prim.	701	698	785	823	829	746	861	868	908	925	916	9,060
	TOTAL	**2475**	**2417**	**2667**	**2654**	**2449**	**2332**	**2591**	**2643**	**2654**	**2493**	**2390**	**27,765**
	Secondary	*77*	*78*	*88*	*97*	*104*	*98*	*100*	*96*	*119*	*103*	*126*	*1,086*
	Voc./Com.	*624*	*620*	*697*	*726*	*725*	*648*	*761*	*772*	*789*	*822*	*790*	*7,974*
GALWAY	Primary	1978	1957	1897	1809	1774	1800	1740	1765	1869	1852	1932	20,373
	Post-Prim.	1008	971	1021	966	925	876	837	880	955	983	997	10,419
	TOTAL	**2986**	**2928**	**2918**	**2775**	**2699**	**2676**	**2577**	**2645**	**2824**	**2835**	**2929**	**30,792**
	Secondary	*252*	*262*	*288*	*251*	*251*	*213*	*202*	*191*	*233*	*249*	*239*	*2,631*
	Voc./Com.	*756*	*709*	*733*	*715*	*674*	*663*	*635*	*689*	*722*	*734*	*758*	*7,788*
MAYO	Primary	263	239	223	199	206	216	254	263	296	307	330	2,796
	Post-Prim.	167	140	137	120	135	155	148	186	211	216	232	1,847
	TOTAL	**430**	**379**	**360**	**319**	**341**	**371**	**402**	**449**	**507**	**523**	**562**	**4,643**
	Secondary	*114*	*102*	*103*	*91*	*103*	*69*	*69*	*92*	*99*	*118*	*133*	*1,093*
	Voc./Com.	*53*	*38*	*34*	*29*	*32*	*86*	*79*	*94*	*112*	*98*	*99*	*754*
KERRY	Primary	543	586	589	567	506	474	425	479	465	446	414	5,494
	Post-Prim.	389	378	410	417	393	398	362	432	430	432	422	4,463
	TOTAL	**932**	**964**	**999**	**984**	**899**	**872**	**787**	**911**	**895**	**878**	**836**	**9,957**
	Secondary	*263*	*271*	*296*	*299*	*299*	*335*	*295*	*370*	*347*	*349*	*344*	*3,448*
	Voc./Com.	*126*	*107*	*114*	*118*	*94*	*63*	*67*	*62*	*83*	*83*	*78*	*1,015*
CORK	Primary	363	249	240	237	200	187	171	158	175	149	123	2,102
	Post-Prim.	177	135	167	202	183	195	188	175	168	168	162	1,870
	TOTAL	**540**	**384**	**407**	**439**	**383**	**382**	**359**	**333**	**343**	**317**	**285**	**3,972**
	Secondary	*93*	*69*	*96*	*70*	*70*	*75*	*78*	*76*	*76*	*74*	*72*	*819*
	Voc./Com.	*84*	*66*	*71*	*132*	*113*	*120*	*110*	*99*	*92*	*94*	*90*	*1,051*
W'FORD	Primary	82	65	84	89	86	92	72	92	96	103	87	948
	Post-Prim.	22	13	36	44	45	45	45	55	46	48	48	447
	TOTAL	**104**	**78**	**120**	**133**	**131**	**137**	**117**	**147**	**142**	**151**	**135**	**1,395**
	Secondary	*22*	*13*	*36*	*44*	*45*	*45*	*44*	*54*	*45*	*47*	*48*	*443*
	Voc./Com.	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*0*	*4*
MEATH	Primary	53	48	51	50	35	29	51	70	75	85	86	633
	Post-Prim.	30	37	37	38	33	32	26	31	22	30	19	335
	TOTAL	**83**	**85**	**88**	**88**	**68**	**61**	**77**	**101**	**97**	**115**	**105**	**968**
	Secondary	*20*	*23*	*27*	*34*	*26*	*21*	*14*	*19*	*13*	*14*	*9*	*220*
	Voc./Com.	*10*	*14*	*10*	*4*	*7*	*11*	*12*	*12*	*9*	*16*	*10*	*115*
TOTAL	Primary	4906	4863	4965	4782	4427	4284	4443	4602	4722	4510	4446	51,051
	Post-Prim.	2444	2372	2594	2610	2543	2547	2467	2627	2740	2802	2796	28,441
	TOTAL	**7350**	**7235**	**7559**	**7392**	**6970**	**6831**	**6910**	**7229**	**7462**	**7312**	**7242**	**79,492**
	Secondary	*811*	*818*	*924*	*886*	*898*	*936*	*802*	*898*	*932*	*954*	*971*	*9,740*
	Voc./Com.	*1633*	*1554*	*1669*	*1724*	*1645*	*1611*	*1665*	*1729*	*1808*	*1848*	*1825*	*18,701*

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Chapter Four

Summary and Conclusions

4.0 Introduction

This research had two main objectives. The first was to examine the value for research and policy purposes of data generated by the £10 grant scheme operated by Roinn na Gaeltachta. Chapters One and Two contain a detailed description of the operation of the scheme and bring into focus some important questions relating to the quality and consistency of the data, the very restricted information released about the scheme, and the limited range of other data to which they can be reliably related.

The second objective of the study was to compile a full statistical digest of the available data pertaining to the scheme over the years 1973/4 to 1983/4 and to assemble a comparable set of statistics relating to school pupil populations over the same years. This digest is presented in Appendix A. Using this combined data-base, the integration of which was sometimes a problem, a detailed cartographic and statistical analysis was undertaken of the patterns and trends revealed by the data, at Gaeltacht, county and local levels. This part of the study, contained in Chapter Three, presents a generalised picture of home bilingualism in the Gaeltacht during the period covered. It has to be stressed, however, that the picture *is* general and tentative. Because of the limited scope of the data, no firm conclusions can be drawn from the analysis.

In this chapter the main findings of the foregoing research are briefly reviewed. The first part of the chapter serves as a convenient summary and at the same time provides a suitable introduction to the final two sections which offer some suggestions for further research and some straightforward and inexpensive proposals which could greatly enhance the value of the data for research and policy purposes.

4.1 Data Constraints

The scheme was originally introduced by An Roinn Oideachais in 1933/4 in order to provide a direct economic incentive to families in Gaeltacht areas to maintain Irish as the language of the home. The scheme allowed an annual grant of £2 to be paid to Gaeltacht parents or guardians in respect of each of their children aged 6-14 years, once An Roinn Oideachais was satisfied that the child's fluency in Irish was consistent with the standard to be expected from children whose home language was Irish. In 1956/7, responsibility for the grant scheme passed to the newly-constituted Roinn na Gaeltachta, although applicants continued to be assessed by inspectors of An Roinn Oideachais until the mid 1970s. From 1964/5 the value of the grant was increased to £10 and the scheme was extended to include those over sixteen years of age who were in fulltime education or on a fulltime training course.

A detailed discussion of the present operation of the scheme can be found in Chapter One. Only the more significant features that have implications for research will be alluded to here. It is particularly important to note that for an assessment of a child to be undertaken, a parent must take the initiative and make formal application. Allowing for the fact that some children are excluded from the scheme because of age and other reasons, it would appear from the analysis in this Report that, unless the rates of unsuccessful applications are very high, no applications are lodged on behalf of possibly more than 50% of Gaeltacht children who would otherwise be eligible. Due to a total lack of information on non-applicants, it remains an open question as to whether these children live in homes or areas that are already effectively anglicised.

Upon application, the normal procedure is for the local Roinn na Gaeltachta Stiúrthóir to visit each school attended by grant applicants sometime during the school year in order to interview the child. Grants may be refused outright but those refused the grant may appeal for reassessment and children refused the grant one year may qualify the following year. Roinn na Gaeltachta states that there is no annual limit set on the number or percentage of grants and that each application is dealt with on its merits without regard to budgetary considerations.

Since 1953/4, information on the annual number and distribution of grant qualifiers has not been published regularly. It can be obtained from Roinn na Gaeltachta but it must be emphasised that the data, as released, merely show the number of grant qualifiers in each school containing one or more successful applicants set against the total population of that school.

The value of this data for research purposes can be discussed under two headings: first, general issues relating to the procedures used in assessing applicants, and second, difficulties posed for analysis by the nature and limited range of the available data.

4.1.1 Assessing fluency in Irish

The assessment for the grant is designed to identify children with natural fluency in spoken Irish concomitant with coming from a home where Irish is the language normally used. As a criterion, 'natural fluency' is a very difficult concept to operationalise and the assessment will clearly depend to a large extent on qualitative judgments by the assessor rather than a quantitative checklist of criteria. Therefore, we do not know the extent to which different Stiúrthóirí would agree in their assessments of a given applicant. For long-term analysis, these difficulties are compounded by the transfer of Departmental responsibility for assessing applicants in 1975/6.

Furthermore, successive censuses and surveys report continued improvement in ability to speak Irish the longer and more intensive the exposure to it in school. It thus becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish the effects of the school from the effects of the home. In this regard it is especially important to note that using six years as the minimum age for assessment is less than ideal for the identification of home-generated bilingualism, since most children will have had considerable exposure to Irish in school by that age.

4.1.2 Limited scope of available data

As has been stated, the only data made publicly available is the annual number of successful applicants in a particular school. No information is provided concerning age, gender, school grade, residence, or any other characteristics of applicants (or of potential valid applicants) and their families. It cannot be established, for example, how many families (as opposed to pupils) attend each school, or the extent to which siblings attend different schools. Nor do we know how many families receive grants in respect of one child while another is refused or is not entered for assessment. It is also regrettable that we cannot determine differential grant performance by boys and girls. We also do not know how many of those refused the grant were deemed worthy of it after reassessment or in a subsequent year. Nor do we know how many of the pupils in each school who did not receive grants in any given year were actually refused the grant and how many of them were simply not considered, either because they were too young or because, for some other reason, no application forms for assessment were lodged.

Therefore, only two statistics are available for analysis: the total number of *successful* grant applicants in a given school; and these as a percentage of *all* pupils in that school.

4.1.3 Difficulties with school enrolment data and catchment areas

Integrating the data pertaining to the grant scheme with school enrolment figures was not always a straightforward task. As grant assessment does not normally begin until November and continues throughout the school year, there is clearly a problem in basing grant performance on pre-November school populations collected on various dates for the primary and post-primary sectors. In addition, school closures and amalgamations tend to confuse the picture in some areas.

Finally, it has to be noted that school catchment areas do not always coincide with Gaeltacht boundaries and that grant applications are not confined to pupils either residing or attending schools within the official Gaeltacht. This can have a significant impact on the analysis of local patterns. First, there is official confusion as to the Gaeltacht status of a number of schools. Second, some Gaeltacht schools are located in areas which have been English-speaking for generations while some technically Galltacht schools located near the Gaeltacht boundary contain sizable numbers of Irish speakers. The fact that the data were made available only on a school basis thus adds an extra degree of indeterminacy to the analysis of patterns in home bilingualism in the marginal and smaller Gaeltacht districts.

Because of the factors noted above, it is difficult to know to what extent the grant data in their present form allow us to validly measure household use of Irish among the pupils of different schools. *At best, it seems that they permit us to do no more than tentatively identify broad patterns.* Even striking variations, whether between schools or from year to year within schools, cannot be confidently understood to imply real changes in household language behaviour.

The analysis, therefore, should be read as no more than a preliminary attempt to deliniate the extent of the Gaeltacht during the years examined. Notwithstanding the qualifications noted above, there is a degree of consistency apparent in the overall patterns and trends which any discussion of bilingualism in the Gaeltacht should take into account.

4.2 Comparisons with other measures of bilingualism

It may be helpful at this point, before the findings of the study are reviewed, to briefly compare this measure of bilingualism with the Census and other survey results. As the Census is undertaken only at five year intervals, this comparison is based on data from the 1981 Census, the most recent year for which data have been published. The published Census figures do not allow disaggregation of under six year olds, of primary, post-primary or other students, or the level or type of post-primary school attended. However, a combination of published and unpublished CSO data allows fairly reliable estimates to be made (see Chapter Two).

Using these Census estimates as a base for calculating grant performance, we found that the total number of grant qualifiers in 1980/1 accounted for 41% of all Gaeltacht-resident fulltime primary and post-primary students aged six and over, regardless of whether they attended Gaeltacht or Galltacht schools. This compares with a grant performance score of 46% among the population of *Gaeltacht* schools estimated to be at least six years of age on January 1st 1981 and with the percentages of self-reported grant recipients among pupils in second grade (38%) and in sixth grade (48%) Gaeltacht primary schools collected in 1982 and 1985 respectively in a stratified random sample of these schools by Harris & Murtagh (1987: Table 2). However, it differs significantly from the 83% of such

Gaeltacht residents who were claimed in the Census to be able to speak Irish.

There are two main lines of explanation, either or both of which could help to explain these discrepancies. In the first instance, it is possible that many more potential applicants than is believed do not apply for assessment and/or that there is a very high proportion of failed applications. We do not, of course, have the data to test this hypothesis, but it is unlikely to explain a discrepancy of the magnitude involved here.

Secondly, it should be recalled that the Census merely asks if a person *can* speak Irish whereas the £10 grant scheme seeks to assess if this ability is commensurate with coming from a home where Irish is normally used. If this is so however, it would appear that large proportions of Gaeltacht Heads of Households share a tendency with large proportions of their Galltacht counterparts to rate school-going children, especially second level students, as being able to speak Irish simply because they are in daily contact with the language at school. Again, however, we do not have the relevant data to check this.

Finally, the grants data may be compared with the findings of the survey conducted by the Committee on Irish Language Attitudes Research in the early 1970s. The report of the Committee does not contain an overall measure of household use of Irish, but Table II (p407) suggests that about *one third* of households with children reported that Irish was used 'always' or 'often' by the children when conversing among themselves. This estimate is approximate given that we cannot control for the age of children and that the data were collected at the beginning of the present study period, when, as we have seen, grant performance levels were generally higher than later in the study period. Nonetheless, it clearly falls more closely within the range of the grants data (estimated at 41% above) than the Census data. Subject to the reservations noted throughout this report, we therefore conclude that the grants data, even in their present unsatisfactory form, are a more discriminating measure of home bilingualism than the Census. Likewise they are more comprehensive and up-to-date than the available survey evidence.

4.3 Patterns and Trends 1973/4 to 1983/4

4.3.1 Introduction

Annual grant numbers ranged from 4350-5000 at primary level and from 2350-2800 at second level. The overall distribution of grants between counties was quite stable with three quarters of all grants shared between Galway (39%) and Donegal (35%) and the remainder going to Kerry (12%), Mayo (6%), Cork (5%), Waterford (2%) and Meath (1%). The percentage shares of all grants going to Cork, Waterford and Meath were identical to their shares of all Gaeltacht-resident primary and post-primary students aged six and over as estimated from the 1981 Census of Population: Kerry and Donegal each received 3% more of the grants than their share of students; Galway 7% more; while Mayo, with 18% of students, received only 6% of the grants.

Sharp annual fluctuations, many of a perplexingly large magnitude, occurred in every county during our period. Not surprisingly, the more populous counties recorded the greatest numerical changes while the smaller populations recorded the greatest percentage shifts. The sharpness of the annual fluctuations and the differences in scale between Gaeltachtaí make overall trends based on annual comparisons between counties difficult to summarize in a meaningful way. In addition, school closures, amalgamations and changes of status (e.g. from secondary to vocational) influenced trends within counties. Such variations highlighted the limitations of inter-county comparisons and underlined the necessity for more localized analysis.

Grant numbers declined seriously in the late 1970s but soon reverted to their former level of 7200-7500 p.a. However, this was achieved by a rise in post-primary grants whereas primary grants, after a short rally, continued to fall. This was especially serious in Cork and Kerry where, by the early 1980s, post-primary grants had equalled or surpassed the number of primary grants. Grant numbers fell substantially in Donegal also. Only in Galway did the primary component hold its share of total grants at the early 1970s level.

4.3.2 Spatial Variations within Gaeltacht Counties

Regardless of trends in grant numbers, the overall trend in grant performance in both primary and post-primary Gaeltacht schools was one of decline to, or stability at, levels far below those one would expect in a vibrant Gaeltacht. Taking account of under six year old primary pupils and of a nominal number enrolled in Gaeltacht primary and post-primary schools who were not entitled to apply for the grant for other reasons, we would expect a constant grant performance of at least 80% at primary level and at least 95% at post-primary level. Apart from a few widely separated schools, no sub-area within the Gaeltacht reached these levels at any point during our period. The only sub-areas where local groups of primary schools managed to remain at or above 75% throughout our period were the extreme northwest of Donegal, the two Galway island groups of Ceantar na nOileán and Árainn, and the area around Smeirbhic in northwest Kerry; and the only areas where post-primary grant performance remained at or above 85% throughout our period were - again - the extreme northwest of Donegal, the two mainland schools adjacent to Ceantar na nOileán (there is no post-primary school on the islands themselves) and Árainn.

This general pattern is consistent with the findings of previous research conducted by ITÉ (Ó Riagáin 1982). In that study, which incorporated the findings of the Committee on Irish Language Attitudes Research, it was argued that only in the two largest Gaeltacht districts of Donegal and Galway were bilingual core areas of any significant size to be found. Adjacent to these core areas was an intermediate zone of more limited bilingualism. Beyond this zone, and moving towards the margins of the official Gaeltacht, was a more or less completely anglicised area. The counties with smaller Gaeltacht districts did not appear to have a genuine core but contained areas with patterns of bilingualism similar to the intermediate or the anglicised types. It was further argued that trends towards anglicisation were apparent in the intermediate zones, but that trends in the core areas were unclear.

The present study would suggest, however, that even the core areas were becoming unstable in the early 1980s. The summary maps of the five largest Gaeltacht districts provide clear evidence of this. (Maps 3.1 to 3.8).

In Donegal, the overall picture is of declining levels of grant performance. By the early 1980s the extreme northwest was the only area in Donegal where three quarters of primary pupils were still earning the grant; and here, in the heartland of the Donegal Gaeltacht, average grant performance remained at three quarters despite a large rise in the number of grant qualifiers during our period. Moving inland, in the Gaeltacht primary schools between Doirí Beaga and Mín na Manrach, grant performance fell from three quarters to two thirds over our period. Elsewhere, except for a handful of widely separated schools, it fell to (or remained at) one third or less - often considerably less. These trends are mirrored at second level, that is, general decline except for the extreme northwest. This area contains the only post-primary school in Donegal where over 80% of the students regularly earned the grant: and by the early 1980s, no other school reached even 40%. While the *weakest* areas continued to be the Rosses and the northeast, the greatest *decline* over our period was in southern Donegal where primary and post-primary grant performance *both* fell from over 40% to just over a quarter during our period.

In Connacht, the trends were fairly similar to those in Donegal. At primary level, the only areas where at least three quarters of Gaeltacht school pupils still earned the grant by the early 1980s were the two Galway island groups of Ceantar na nOileán (79%) and Árainn (75%) but the primary school populations were declining in both of these areas. To the west of Ceantar na nOileán, on the Carna peninsula, grant performance fell from over 80% to two thirds. In the extensive area eastwards from Ceantar na nOileán to the outskirts of Galway city, grant numbers rose but grant performance fell by about 10% - to three quarters in the westerly part, to a half in the part closer to the city. Galway city itself, which is not in the Gaeltacht, continued to account for 2% of all primary grants earned in the county, but these still constituted only a tiny percentage of the host school populations. In the Gaeltacht area east of Galway city, grant performance fell from 16% to 5%. North of Galway city, it continued to hover around one fifth in the Moycullen area and around one third further north in the Joyce Country and in adjacent South Mayo. Grant performance improved in Mid Mayo (Corrán and Acaill) but still constituted less than a quarter of pupils, even in the best of the schools. Finally in North Mayo, grant performance was under a fifth in all but two of the seventeen Gaeltacht primary schools.

At post-primary level, the highest scores were again in those schools serving the two Galway groups of islands of Ceantar na nOileán and Árainn: these continued to score 85% or over although the Árainn score had fallen by 11% over our period. The profile of Indreabhán was almost identical to that of Árainn but had fallen just below the 85% mark by the early 1980s. On Carna, grant performance improved somewhat, but just to three quarters; An Spidéal managed to recover to about 60% after a decline during the later 1970s and the Joyce Country declined from three quarters to a half. In South Mayo, grant performance improved, but just to a fifth; in Mid Mayo it doubled, but just to about one in eight; and in North Mayo, it remained stable, but only at about one in eight on Belmullet and at about one half in the area to the north. Thus while the situation at post-primary level was somewhat better than at primary level, the overall situation in Connacht was of overall decline or of growth to fairly low levels of grant performance.

In Kerry, the only area where primary grants remained at three quarters or above was in the neighbouring schools at Baile an Fheirtéaraigh and Baile na nGall in the extreme northwest of Corca Dhuibhne. As in the island heartland of the Galway Gaeltacht, this heartland area of the Kerry Gaeltacht was subject to a falling primary school population. Elsewhere in Corca Dhuibhne, with the important exception of Dingle town (An Daingean) and of the northeastern part of the peninsula which only became a Gaeltacht area in 1974, grant performance was generally fairly stable at about two thirds. The fact that post-primary students from all over the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht (and possibly further afield) travel to An Daingean to further their education is probably reflected in the contrast between the grant performance at primary level (16%) and at post-primary level (about three quarters) in the schools of that town. By contrast with Corca Dhuibhne, grant performance on the Uíbh Ráthach peninsula was in headlong decline in all primary and post-primary schools. Here, by the early 1980s, only one primary school was scoring even one third whereas two schools had been above 70% less than a decade earlier. Although there was no post-primary school within the Gaeltacht area of Uíbh

Ráthach, the number of grants earned in the local Galltacht post-primary schools usually exceeded the number of grants earned in the Gaeltacht primary schools: but as these post-primary grants were spread between four different schools, the highest profile of grant qualifiers in any one of them was only a fifth of the host school population (up to the mid 1970s it had been a half).

In Cork, primary grant performance declined from a third to a fifth over our period. This decline was substantial in all but one of the eleven primary schools, Cúil Aodha, where grant performance had risen slightly to 74% by the early 1980s. With the exception of Cléire off the south coast, which had declined to two thirds, grant performance in the rest of Cork primary schools had declined to one third or less by the 1980s. The overall situation at post-primary level remained fairly stable at one third but the distribution of grant earners between the three Gaeltacht schools involved changed.

In Waterford, grant performance improved substantially at both primary and post-primary levels over our period. However, whereas almost 90% of students in the sole Gaeltacht post-primary school were earning grants by the early 1980s, grant performance in the best of the primary schools had risen to only 61%.

Finally, in Meath, there was also a substantial rise in primary grant performance over our period, but the later 1970s had witnessed a serious decline subsequently reversed. The revival was mainly confined to Ráth Cairn where grant performance doubled to 80% between the later 1970s and the early 1980s; by contrast, Baile Ghib barely held its own at about a third. As there was no post-primary school within the Meath Gaeltacht, post-primary grants were dispersed among twelve local Galltacht schools. This may help to explain why post-primary grants fell despite soaring numbers of primary grants.

4.4 Suggestions for Further Research

The most obvious areas requiring further research relate to the operation of the grant scheme itself. As has been observed frequently in the discussion, the extent to which the assessment procedures accurately measure home bilingualism is somewhat unclear and the consistency of the data across areas and over time is therefore open to question. The possibilities for a more standardised system of assessment might usefully be explored. The additional major problem relating to the restricted range of ancillary data collected and/or released about the scheme will be discussed in more detail in the next section of this chapter.

The variations over time and over geographic space, presented in Chapter Three, suggest numerous questions which would merit further study. This report is an up-dated version of an earlier unpublished report covering the five years to 1978. Little has changed in the meantime except that the Gaeltacht has contracted still further. The number of Gaeltacht primary schools with 75% or more grant qualifiers fell from 50 to 27 and the number of non-Gaeltacht primary schools containing successful grant applicants fell from 38 to 17. Indeed, by the 1980s, there were only three subareas left in the Gaeltacht where 75% or more of the local primary school population still earned the grant; and in two of these, the Galway islands and northwest Corca Dhuibhne in Kerry, grant numbers were falling in line with, or somewhat faster than, the local school population. In the third, the extreme northwest of Donegal, grant numbers kept pace with a rising local school population. While all three areas are remotely situated on the edge of the Atlantic, the Donegal Gaeltacht heartland differed from the other two in at least two important respects: an accessible industrial estate and a local community school. There are fewer local employment opportunities in the other two areas and, except for vocational students on the largest of the Árainn islands, students seeking post-primary education are obliged to travel, often to more Anglicised areas. Therefore, a comparative study of the importance of local employment opportunities and educational provision for maintaining an Irish-speaking environment suggests itself as a topic worth further investigation.

It has been noted on a number of occasions in this report that there appears to be a case for consolidating grant qualifiers from a particular area into a single school or stream. This applies most clearly in Northeast Donegal, Uíbh Ráthach, and Meath, where the complete absence of local Gaeltacht second level schools results in the dispersal of Gaeltacht post-primary students among a variety of Galltacht schools; and large numbers of grant earners continue to constitute tiny minorities in a variety of Galway city shools. But it is not self-evident that the consolidation of such grant earners into a single school or stream would work - or even if it did, that it would be a desirable objective. A particularly interesting phenomenon is the Fálcarrach area in the easterly part of Northwest Donegal where grant performance has remained at a stable 30-40% or so despite soaring numbers of non-Gaeltacht and/or non-Irish-speaking students attending the local Gaeltacht primary and post-primary schools. Given our lack of data on school catchment areas, a study of Fálcarrach could show how a borderline Gaeltacht school can maintain a stable and substantial minority of grant earners, coupled with an opportunity to test whether this can be achieved without 'ghettoizing' the Irish-speakers.

Another aspect of the 'consolidation' issue relates to school closures and amalgamations. While the great bulk of Gaeltacht primary school closures and amalgamations took place in the half dozen years or so prior to our period (when there were 27 closures in Donegal alone), a further 28 Gaeltacht primary schools closed during our period while only seven new schools were opened. Since we do not know what proportion of pupils from closed schools moved to the school with which their old school amalgamated it is not always clear from the data at our disposal how these closures and amalgamations affected grant performance. The most recent example of largescale amalgamation occurred in 1982, with the amalgamation of three local Gaeltacht primary schools into a single school at Béal Átha An Ghaorthaidh in Cork. While grant performance had been falling steadily up to that point, it would be valuable to examine the subsequent fortunes of the language in the new school and in the area generally.

Finally, although there are few examples available, it is necessary to examine some examples of improved grant performance. There are three main categories. First, schools which improved from a fairly high base to 'fíor-Ghaeltacht' status; second, schools which improved substantially from a fairly low base for no apparent reason; and third, schools which improved substantially following their incorporation into the Gaeltacht during our period. Examples of schools and areas which would allow one or more of these phenomena to be studied would be a comparison between Ráth Cairn and Baile Ghib in Meath, the primary and post-primary schools at An Rinn in Waterford, and Clochán in Kerry. Besides the obvious research advantage of their being relatively small and self-contained, each of these areas improved its grant performance despite being surrounded by officially anglicised areas, which makes them all the more interesting and relevant to the basic aim of extending the use of Irish in non-Gaeltacht areas.

The above suggestions focus on what can be learnt from positive-neutral rather than negative sociolinguistic situations regarding the current and forseeable prospects for Irish as a used language. They also involve every Gaeltacht county to some extent. Obviously, there are many more topics, phenomena, schools and areas that could and should be studied - for example, areas where grant performance was strong at the beginning of our period but subsequently fell below 75% at primary level and/or 85% at post-primary level. Such research would need to be geared towards identifying fruitful areas for active policy intervention.

4.5 The Provision of Public Data

A main aim of this report was to assess the usefulness of data on the £10 Grant Scheme for clarifying the extent to which Irish is the main language used in Gaeltacht homes. As we have seen however, these data, in their present form, merely allow us to plot a tentative descriptive profile of patterns and trends and provide little or no explanation as to how and why these trends occurred.

We have already noted some of these data deficiencies. Thus for example, the present report was obliged to base grant performance scores on total school populations due to lack of data relating to the age/grade/gender composition of actual and potential legitimate grant applicants. More importantly, given that the £10 Grant Scheme is specifically aimed at assessing family usage, it was not possible to collate £10 grant data into family scores or to correlate them with data on other types of grants. In addition, there were technical difficulties in relating the data to Gaeltacht boundaries and to Census data.

The effective monitoring of any policy requires a constant flow of relevant, reliable, regularly updated data - that is to say, background information and statistics, both current and archival. In many areas of state policy, data are regularly published in the form of analytical trend reports, often with commentaries. In the case of the £10 Grant Scheme, it would be desirable to prepare such a survey at least every five years or so, preferably to coincide with the Census of Population.

In this regard, two recent official reports on public statistics give cause for concern. The first, by the National Statistics Board (CSO, 1988), ignores cultural matters in laying down official priority responses to demands for official statistics. The second, an EC-commissioned study on alternative approaches to the collection of public statistics, concludes that language is not a suitable topic for inclusion in censuses designed to be integrated with data registers kept for other administrative purposes (Redfern, 1987: para. 3.32). Consequently, although legislation is being drafted to allow the release of CSO computer tapes for research purposes and while the retention of the language question in the Census of Population seems assured (CSO, personal communication), the prospects seem poor for elaborating the role of the Census question on Irish. Therefore, if Gaeltacht trends are to be monitored and analysed adequately, there is an urgent need for Roinn na Gaeltachta and other public bodies to maximise the utility and mutual compatibility of the data sets already being collected.

The following suggestions are made in the belief that they would greatly improve the quality of information necessary for an effective monitoring of the £10 Grant Scheme and - particularly if integrated with data on other schemes - for an effective assessment of Gaeltacht policy in general. They would require only modest administrative changes and some investment in computerisation.

It is important that data should be analysable in terms of individual students and family units, both within schools and across schools. A single application form for each family could achieve this. The family form would detail all of their children by age, gender, and school(s) currently attended (if any), identifying those who were applying for the £10 grant and stating whether or not other Roinn na Gaeltachta grants had been applied for by the family. Having vetted these applications, they could then be checked against school roll-books to ascertain the numbers entitled to apply for the grant who did and did not do so and the numbers who were not entitled to apply for the grant. Following assessments throughout the school year, an annual summary could be published for the Gaeltacht as a whole and for each of the seven Gaeltachtaí separately; for each Gaeltacht school; and for each Galltacht school containing even one pupil or student entitled to apply for the grant, giving the following information.

1. *The number of Pupils/Students* by gender and school grade:

- who *were entitled to apply* for the £10 grant that school year
- who *validly applied* for assessment that school year
- who *were not assessed* (for bureaucratic reasons) that school year
- who *were assessed* that school year and *succeeded/failed* at that assessment
- who (having failed at that assessment) *applied for reassessment*
- who *were not reassessed* (for bureaucratic reasons) that school year
- who *were reassessed* that school year and *succeeded/failed* at that session.

2. *The number of families* - distinguishing in each case between those with one relevant child and more than one relevant child - and preferably broken down by District Electoral Division or Townland of residence:

- where one or more children were entitled to apply for the grant
- where all/some/none of the children in the family entitled to apply did so
- where all/some/none of the valid applicants qualified for the grant that school year (a) without any reassessment and (b) only after reassessment
- where warning notices were sent in the case of borderline cases
- where house visits were made to clarify borderline cases.

Appendix Tables 1 and 2, at the end of this chapter, give some idea of how this might be presented, using the school as the unit of analysis.

Of course, the £10 Grant Scheme is only one of many Roinn na Gaeltachta schemes for the cultural, social and economic improvement of the Gaeltacht. Therefore, the utility of the £10 grant data would be greatly enhanced if data concerning these other schemes were to be integrated with it. Moreover, given that other public bodies have policies with direct or indirect implications for Irish in the Gaeltacht, the achievement of compatibility between these various data sets would provide a very valuable empirical basis on which to monitor and assess the effectiveness of Gaeltacht policy as a whole.

The present report found many instances where data held by different public bodies with relevance to a given topic could not be fully integrated. Thus for example, there were considerable divergences between lists of Gaeltacht schools supplied - not only as between Roinn na Gaeltachta and An Roinn Oideachais, but also as between lists from the same source supplied on different occasions. These divergences applied not only to the Gaeltacht status of particular schools but also to names, addresses and locations of schools - and even to their spelling. Likewise, the Ordnance Survey has yet to cooperate with Roinn na Gaeltachta to produce up to date detailed maps of Gaeltacht areas, identifying currently open schools and current Gaeltacht boundaries; and the problem of disaggregating Census of Population data into categories compatible with grants and school population data still remains.

Therefore, it is suggested that Roinn na Gaeltachta should consult with other public bodies such as An Roinn Oideachais, Údarás na Gaeltachta, the CSO, the Ordnance Survey and An Coimisiún Logainmneacha to ensure that their data banks are mutually compatible, accessible, and conducive to a comprehensive analysis of policies for Irish in the Gaeltacht and throughout the state generally.

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER FOUR: SUGGESTED FORMAT OF DATA TO BE PROVIDED ANNUALLY BY ROINN NA GAELTACHTA

(See NOTES below TABLE 2)

TABLE 1: SCHOOL POPULATIONS AND £10 GRANT APPLICATIONS CLASSIFIED BY GRADE AND GENDER[1]

SCHOOL NAME: ______________________ ADDRESS: ______________________
SCHOOL ROLL No: ____________ SCHOOL LOCATION: Gaeltacht ( ); Non-Gaeltacht ( )
SCHOOL TYPE: Primary ( ); Secondary ( ); Vocational ( ); Community ( ); Comprehensive ( )
GENDER SERVED: Boys only ( ); Girls only ( ); Boys and Girls ( )

	--------- ORDINARY CLASSES IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS---------														SEC'DRY TOPS		SPECIAL EDUCAT.		GRAND TOTAL	
GRADE	INFANTS		1		2		3		4		5		6							
No. Of PUPILS / GENDER	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
a. Not entitled to apply																				
b. -because of age																				
c. -because of residence																				
d. -for other reason																				
e. Entitled to apply																				
f. TOTAL POPULATION																				
g. Applied for £10 grant																				
h. Assessed																				
i. Qualified for grant																				
j. Failed to qualify																				
k. Sought reassessment																				
l. Did not seek "																				
m. Qualified after "																				
n. TOTAL QUALIFIERS																				

[1] NOTES PERTAINING TO TABLE 1:
Rows (a - j) deal with '1st round' applications, ignoring reassessment applications from failed candidates, whether from the current year or 'carried over' from the previous year.
Row a = Rows (b+c+d). Row f = Rows (a+e). Row h = Rows (i+j). Row j = Rows (k+l). Row n = Rows (i+m).

TABLE 2: SCHOOL POPULATIONS AND £10 GRANT APPLICATIONS CLASSIFIED BY FAMILIES.

SCHOOL NAME: ______________________ ADDRESS: ______________________
SCHOOL ROLL No: ____________ SCHOOL LOCATION: Gaeltacht ( ); Non-Gaeltacht ( )
SCHOOL TYPE: Primary ( ); Secondary ( ); Vocational ( ); Community ( ); Comprehensive ( )
GENDER SERVED: Boys only ( ); Girls only ( ); Boys and Girls ( )

	NUMBERS INVOLVED		
	ONE-CHILD FAMILIES	2+ CHILDREN	
		FAMILIES	CHILDREN
Families with one or more children at the school			
Families with child(ren) entitled to apply			
-all of whom did so			
-some of whom did so	-		
-none of whom did so			
Families where ALL who were assessed qualified			
-without any child being reassessed			
-after one or more were reassessed			
Families where SOME who were assessed qualified	-		
-without any child being reassessed	-		
-after one or more were reassessed	-		
Families where NONE who were assessed qualified			
-without any child being reassessed			
-after one or more were reassessed			
Families sent a 'warning note' with the grant(s)			-
Families visited 'for further clarification'			-

NOTES:

1. Both tables to be completed for every Gaeltacht school, even if no pupil in the school applies for the £10 grant or is successful in his/her application. Data on any Galltacht school containing one or more pupils entitled to apply for the grant should also be included.

2. All data should refer strictly to a given school year, not to the financial year.

3. Failed candidates from the previous school year who applied for reassessment that school year but were not actually reassessed until the current school year should be ignored.

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Appendix A

Basic data for each school, detailing (a) school names, locations, closures and amalgamations, and (b) annual grant qualifiers set against annual school populations for the period 1973/4 - 1983/4

The following pages provide the basic data for each school in the same order as they are dealt with in the text. In the case of primary schools, data relating to school names, locations, closures and amalgamations are shown on the left hand pages, with statistical data relating to grant performance in the same order on the right. Both types of data are combined on the same page in the case of the much smaller number of post-primary schools.

On the left hand pages, names of primary schools still open at the end of our period are in the leftmost column, preceded by their official roll numbers; closed Gaeltacht schools are in the rightmost column, followed by their roll numbers. The roll numbers are omitted on the statistics pages, where each school name is shown in CAPITALS, followed by the annual number of grant qualifiers attending that school set against (in **heavy type**) the annual school population for each year of our period.

Post-primary schools are identified by type, as follows:

CL (Clochar) = Convent school.
CS or GS (Ceardscoil/Gairmscoil) = Technical/Vocational school.
MS (Meánscoil) = Secondary school.
PS (Pobalscoil) = Community school.
SC (Scoil Cuimsitheach) = Comprehensive school.

All Gaeltacht schools are shown, including those which opened or closed during our period, even if no grants were earned there. Data on non-Gaeltacht schools are shown for each year that even one pupil earned the grant. An asterisk (*) before the name of a school indicates that it lies outside the Gaeltacht while a question mark means that its Gaeltacht status differs as between two lists of Gaeltacht schools provided by Roinn na Gaeltachta in 1980 (RG1) and 1986 (RG2). In such cases, the status ascribed to it on each list is indicated.

In order to demonstrate the full extent of school consolidation in Gaeltacht areas, all known school closures and amalgamations involving Gaeltacht schools from the mid-1960s to the end of our period are shown, with those which closed during our period underlined. Closed schools are integrated geographically with surviving schools and all known amalgamations are indicated by means of a plus-mark (+) for the first closed school to be amalgamated and by ampersands (&) if there is more than one closed school involved. The date following a hash mark (#) refers to the date of closure and/or amalgamation.

The nomenclature has been standardised in consultation with Oifig na Logainmneacha. Fully standardised versions are shown on the left hand pages. The need for brevity occasionally necessitates the use of abbreviated forms of school names on the right hand pages but as the schools are arranged in the same sequence, there is no problem relating them to the standard forms.

Donegal Primary Schools arranged by Location

Roll No.	**School**	**Address**	**Closed/Amalgamated & Comments**	
Northeast				
16242	Dumhaigh Bhig	An Baile Láir	(No grants throughout period)	
16814	Gleann Bhairr	Leitir Ceanainn		
18120	Caiseal	Cionn Droma	+ Baile Mhicheáil	16??? # 30. 6.72
			& An Baile Láir	1703? # 1. 7.72
19228	Cionn na Leargaí	Na Dúnaibh	+ Doire Chasáin	15239 # 30. 6.69
			& Muirbheach	16604 # 1. 7.69
19252	?*Carraig Airt	Carraig Airt	Not on RG1; Gaelt-RG	
18766	?*An Mhaoil Rua	Duibhleann Riach	Gaelt.-RG1; Gallt-RG	
			+ Gort na Brád	15706 # 21. 2.68
14194	An Tearmann	Leitir Ceanainn		
18151	*Muire	Baile na nGallóglach		
17036	*Cill Mhic Réanáin	Leitir Ceanainn		
17924	*Sc. na nAingeal Naofa	Leitir Ceanainn	Opened 1.9.81	
15208	An Srath Mór	Mín an Lábáin		
16763	Glasán	An Craoslach		
18371	*Muire	An Craoslach		
		An Caiseal Mór	Cill Darach	17534 # . .76
16903	*An Fhothair	Port na Bláiche		
18710	*Sc. na Croise Naofa	Dún Fionnachaidh		
14704	*Maigh Rua	Dún Fionnachaidh		
Northwest A				
05164	Toraigh	Gort an Choirce		
		Gort an Choirce	Inis Bó Finne	15003 # 30. 8.81
17704	Baile Chonaill	An Fál Carrach	+ Mín Doire	16??? # 28. 2.70
16819	Gort an Choirce	Gort an Choirce		
Northwest B				
03294	Caiseal na gCorr	Gort an Choirce		
16671	Cnoc Na Naomh	Gort an Choirce		
17130	Machaire Uí Robhartaigh	Gort an Choirce		
17822	Mín an Chladaigh	Gort an Choirce	+ Cnoc Fola	16994 # 1. 7.6?
17503	An Luinneach	Doirí Beaga	+ Bun an Inbhir	167?? # 1. 1.6?
Northwest C				
14502	Doirí Beaga	Doirí Beaga		
18219	Machaire Chlochair	Bun Beag		
17018	Dobhar	Gaoth Dobhair	+ An Tor	1662? # 1. 7.68
		Gaoth Dobhair	& Dún Lúiche	16423 # 4. 9.78
18007	Rinn na Feirste	Leitir Ceanainn		
16829	Loch an Iúir	Áth na gCaoire	+ Ard Gréine	1662? # 14. 7.67
16142	Mín na Manrach	An Clochán Liath		
Northwest D				
19343	Anagaire	Leitir Ceanainn	+ Mullach Dubh	14?65 # 30. 6.70
			& Mín na Leice	17538 # 1. 7.70
			& Scoil Dubhthaigh	15818 # 6. 1.75
19553	An Clochán Liath	An Clochán Liath	+ An Clochán Liath	15961 # 1. 9.79
		which already incl.	Mín Na Croise	10761 # 16.12.67
			& Mín an Tóiteáin	14826 # 13. 5.69
18286	Na hAcraí	Alt an Chorráin	+ An Mhín Mhór	16??? # 1. 7.72
			& Mín Beannaid	16668 # 1. 7.75
04809	An Céideadh	Alt an Chorráin		
18844	Béal na Cruite	Cionn Caslach		
15955	Árainn Mhór 1	Leitir Ceanainn		
16384	Árainn Mhór 2	Leitir Ceanainn		

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SCHOOL YEAR	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
NORTHEAST DONEGAL											
DUMHAIGH BHIG	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..
GLEANN BHAIRR	14 34	15 33	16 34	20 36	15 35	13 31	13 31	9 28	6 22	4 18	0 22
CAISEAL	73 111	69 108	92 125	84 115	84 121	82 134	88 126	89 118	77 116	61 113	57 122
CIONN NA LEARGAÍ	40 134	50 136	53 139	51 144	40 150	42 142	47 158	42 152	54 147	55 153	50 155
? CARRAIG AIRT	7 133	14 138	10 135	16 147	13 134	8 128	6 133	3 137	0 136	0 140	0 141
? AN MHAOIL RUA	26 97	27 104	26 102	33 109	34 109	27 106	20 102	31 107	27 101	26 103	20 120
AN TEARMANN	0 67	2 74	8 78	12 88	11 80	9 81	4 85	4 97	7 94	3 90	3 81
*BAILE NA nGALLÓGLACH				1 239							
*CILL MHIC RÉANÁIN	2 120	2 137	3 148	3 149	3 145						
*LEITIR CEANAINN								OPENED:	1 23	1 ..	1 ..
AN SRATH MÓR	9 20	11 18	12 23	7 22	0 ..	0 27	0 26	0 30	0 25	0 ..	0 ..
GLASÁN	1 28	1 30	0 36	0 27	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 30	0 27	0 22	0 21
*MUIRE, AN CRAOSLACH	2 156	4 168	4 179	7 195	4 199	4 206	4 194	5 182	2 178	5 163	4 166
CILL DARACH	3 30	2 27	0 22	CLOSED							
*AN FHOTHAIR	8 44	7 43	4 35	4 35	4 36	3 32	3 36	2 36	1 37	1 36	1 37
*DÚN FIONNACHAIDH	0 38	3 45	2 52	3 57	2 59	7 77	7 75	6 84	4 76	4 68	5 73
*MAIGH RUA	14 66	15 63	12 52	9 54	10 55	9 54	11 48	11 46	8 52	7 49	9 45

SCHOOL YEAR	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
NORTHWEST A											
TORAIGH	41 43	39 45	41 46	39 45	41 54	30 40	34 40	28 30	17 36	10 19	14 14
INIS BÓ FINNE	22 27	20 21	16 17	15 17	13 13	7 12	6 6	4 7	CLOSED		
BAILE CHONAILL	88 218	56 236	91 254	88 279	87 286	54 298	75 302	105 301	97 305	100 339	91 349
GORT AN CHOIRCE	73 91	77 92	62 65	46 50	40 53	41 46	35 42	32 37	22 35	26 33	22 33
NORTHWEST B											
CAISEAL NA gCORR	62 79	65 79	77 91	81 100	72 107	81 106	82 104	82 97	77 97	67 87	74 88
CNOC NA NAOMH	80 104	76 117	83 125	84 138	72 135	94 148	107 156	118 149	111 143	102 132	96 136
MACHAIRE ROBH'TAIGH	36 48	36 44	35 46	37 44	37 50	45 54	50 60	50 70	52 70	54 73	58 73
MÍN AN CHLADAIGH	76 102	89 118	98 119	103 125	100 119	95 113	88 101	89 115	81 105	79 103	79 109
AN LUINNEACH	105 141	109 148	126 162	117 166	136 166	139 169	156 187	153 197	161 207	141 194	147 199
NORTHWEST C											
DOIRÍ BEAGA	100 116	85 118	101 130	109 145	102 149	111 158	130 168	138 198	136 208	142 211	115 211
MACHAIRE CHLOCHAIR	125 155	130 170	146 162	156 197	149 195	164 200	153 176	146 179	140 188	125 193	110 179
DÚN LÚICHE	26 30	24 29	14 25	11 24	8 19	CLOSED: see next entry					
DOBHAR	37 51	40 52	47 49	43 55	32 55	54 80	64 86	61 87	57 83	49 77	38 82
RINN NA FEIRSTE	49 73	58 78	64 80	70 89	77 104	76 108	90 97	81 98	80 101	75 93	75 99
LOCH AN IÚIR	28 54	26 60	29 60	29 56	13 52	3 49	37 58	35 54	34 61	28 52	28 49
MÍN NA MANRACH	17 22	17 22	18 26	14 26	8 27	6 27	10 39	10 17	12 17	10 18	12 17
NORTHWEST D											
SCOIL DUBHTHAIGH	0 ...	CLOSED: see next entry									
ANAGAIRE	110 217	106 220	96 224	84 224	68 225	72 213	68 204	67 205	62 197	49 183	54 187
AN CLOCHÁN LIATH	17 266	19 263	19 274	17 283	7 284	CLOSED: see next entry					
SC LÁRNACH C. LIATH						11 292	11 306	10 328	17 325	15 340	23 325
MÍN BEANNAID	2 16	0 15	CLOSED: see next entry								
NA hACRAÍ	0 82	0 90	2 116	1 121	0 ..	0 140	0 132	0 142	0 142	0 142	0 142
AN CÉIDEADH	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 76	0 76	0 79	0 84	0 ..	0 ..
BÉAL NA CRUITE	0 36	0 41	1 49	1 59	0 ..	1 62	0 66	0 69	2 75	0 78	0 76
ÁRAINN MHÓR (1)	32 87	27 81	37 85	35 85	12 82	22 79	32 80	24 83	25 82	20 80	26 70
ÁRAINN MHÓR (2)	38 48	38 55	35 55	31 56	31 63	35 59	32 62	34 64	29 64	26 68	26 ..

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Donegal Primary Schools (Continued)

Roll No.	School	Address	Closed/Amalgamated & Comments	
Central		An Clochán	Leitir Bric	17077 # . . 75
17553	An Taobhóg	An Clochán	+ An Bhrocaigh	16??? # 4.12.67
19260	Baile na Finne	Leifear	+ An Cionn Garbh	13954 # 3. 9.68
			& Béal an Átha Móir	06105 # 18. 3.70
			& Gleann Léithín	10166 # 11. 9.74
16837	An Dúchoraidh	Leifear		
15847	Leitir Mhic an Bhaird	Leitir Mhic an Bhaird	+ Tráigh Eidhneach	16030 # 31.12.76
16823	?*Mín an Ghabhann	Leitir Mhic an Bhaird	Not on RG1; Gaelt-RG2 (No grants)	
17588	Baile Uí Chiaragáin	An Clochán		
17564	An Coimín	An Clochán		
17122	An tÉadan Anfach	Na Gleannta		
		Na Gleannta	Srath Chaisil	18649 # . .75
15467	*Conaill Naofa	Na Gleannta		
18071	*Clochar na Trócaire	Na Gleannta		
17716	*Droim na Croise	Cill Riadhain	+ Dúbinn	16??? # 19. 7.69
17328	?*An Roisín	An Clochán Liath	Gaelt-RG1; Gallt-RG2	
			+ An Chruach	14876 # 13. 7.67
16963	*Dallán Forgaill	Port Nua		
17035	*Mínte na Dé	Ard an Rátha		
16869	?*An Bhreacaigh	Ard an Rátha	Gaelt-RG1; Gallt-RG2	
			+ Leac Chonaill	14890 # 5. 7.69
			& Mín an Bhealaigh	15229 # 1. 7.73
South				
19685	Naomh Chartha	Cill Charthaigh	Opened in 1979	
		incorporating	Doire Leathan	15641 # 17. 9.79
			& Cill Charthaigh	16395 # 17. 9.79
		which already incl.	Cógais	161?? # 2. 9.71
18611	An Charraig	An Charraig	+Teileann	15241 # 1. 7.68
18295	Mín an Oighre	An Charraig	+ Leargain na Saortha	14888 # 12.11.72
18652	An Caiseal	Gleann Cholmcille	+ Loch Dhoire Thoirc	12118 # 14. 7.67
			& Málainn Mhóir	15991 # 23. 4.68
			& Málainn Bhig	14119 # 7. 1.76

SCHOOL YEAR	1973/'4		1974/'5		1975/'6		1976/'7		1977/'8		1978/'9		1979/80		1980/'1		1981/'2		1982/'3		1983/'4	
CENTRAL DONEGAL																						
LEITIR BRIC	7	21	5	20	CLOSED																	
TAOBHÓG	6	51	5	57	16	61	20	59	11	58	8	51	8	51	7	50	10	52	5	51	5	59
GLEANN LÉITHÍN	15	16	CLOSED: see next entry																			
BAILE NA FINNE	40	51	47	64	48	65	51	68	39	65	41	70	39	69	44	63	48	60	43	65	41	36
AN DÚCHORAIDH	18	45	15	48	15	51	14	46	7	42	5	37	6	40	6	36	5	33	0	30	0	26
TRÁIGH EIDHNEACH	7	15	8	13	6	12	0	12	CLOSED: see next entry													
LEITIR MHICA'BHAIRD	7	41	4	42	4	41	4	49	0	..	1	75	1	81	2	79	3	80	7	82	7	85
? MÍN AN GHABHANN	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..
BAILE UÍ CHIARAGÁIN	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	28	0	32	0	36	0	36	2	36	0	36
AN COIMÍN	26	36	26	38	36	49	33	48	38	53	39	55	46	59	49	65	50	67	40	60	35	58
AN tÉADAN ANFACH	30	49	26	51	32	56	30	47	26	46	24	52	31	53	37	51	34	52	34	58	24	53
SRATH CHAISIL	14	17	14	17	CLOSED																	
*CONALL, NA GLEANNTA					6	102	1	100	2	87	2	84	1	81								
*CL. TRÓC. "					2	92	1	96	1	100	1	99	3	105	1	121	1	121				
*DROIM NA CROISE	2	51	2	44	4	41	3	36	1	31	1	31	1	28								
? AN ROISÍN	3	37			3	45																
*DALLÁN FORGAILL	2	68																				
*MÍNTE NA DÉ	10	39	5	40	15	37	14	36	7	41	8	41	7	39	10	41	13	34	10	32	8	31
? AN BHREACAIGH	8	75	16	69	15	76	14	76	9	75	9	70	9	72	5	71	5	80	5	72	5	78
SOUTH DONEGAL																						
DOIRE LEATHAN	17	36	20	42	23	47	20	47	22	45	6	40	CLOSED: see next entry									
CILL CHARTHAIGH	60	139	57	133	52	135	54	142	53	148	29	136	CLOSED: see next entry									
NAOMH CHARTHA												OPENED:	28	183	44	179	53	180	29	178	22	181
AN CHARRAIG	48	122	44	126	48	122	43	139	27	155	27	163	30	166	32	170	53	166	52	163	49	166
MÍN AN OIGHRE	52	62	34	40	33	37	31	36	22	36	8	34	16	33	25	34	25	37	25	44	22	47
MÁLAINN BHIG	1	20	1	18	0	16	CLOSED: see next entry															
AN CAISEAL	38	108	31	108	44	109	37	124	30	132	32	137	40	153	43	155	47	154	31	154	17	165

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Galway Primary Schools arranged by Location

Roll No.	School	Address	Closed/Amalgamated & Comments	
Árainn				
17289	Inis Oírr	Inis Oírr		
12339	Inis Meáin	Inis Meáin		
12342	Eoghanacht	Árainn		
17541	Scoil an Cheathrair Álainn	Árainn		
17456	Cill Rónáin	Árainn	+ Cill Éinne	12340 # 1. 7.70
Carna				
17660	?*Scoil Naomh Treasa	An Caiseal	Not on RG1; Gaelt-RG2	
18263	Maíros	Carna	+ Glinsce	18613 # 30. 6.70
14421	An Aird Thiar	Carna		
18121	Carna	Carna		
10591	An Aird Mhór	Carna		
17574	Cill Chiaráin	Carna	+ Loch Conaortha	17795 # 1. 7.70
17770	Maínis	Carna		
Ros Muc - An Cheathrú Rua				
11373	Ros Muc	An Turlach Beag		
17463	An Gort Mór	Ros Muc		
11290	Camas	Casla		
13951	Leitir Mucú	Caiseal		
11261	An Tuairín	An Cheathrú Rua		
17895	Scoil Mhic Dhara	An Cheathrú Rua	+ Scoil Mhic Dhara (C)	17896 # 1. 7.73
17897	Scoil Mhic Dhara:Naíonáin	An Cheathrú Rua		
Ceantar na nOileán				
13416	Leitir Mealláin	Leitir Mealláin		
15518	An Cnoc	Leitir Mealláin		
		Béal an Daingin	Inis Treabhair	15449 # 31. 1.80
17689	Tír an Fhia	Leitir Móir		
14724	An Trá Bháin (= 19050?)	Leitir Móir		
13528	An Droim	Leitir Móir		
13699	Leitir Móir	Leitir Móir		
13952	Leitir Calaidh	Leitir Móir		
Ros an Mhíl - Bearna				
12946	Na Doiriú	Baile na hAbhann	+ Gleann Mhac Muirinn	18314 # 26. 8.69
18514	An Tulaigh	Baile na hAbhann	+ Indreabhán	17959 # 1. 7.70
12706	Sailearna	Indreabhán (An Cnoc)	+ Sailearna	12707 # 1. 7.72
17556	Clochar Mhuire	An Spidéal	+ Both Loisethe	17499 # 1. 7.68
17455	Scoil Mhichíl Naofa	An Spidéal		
17668	Na Forbacha	Bearna		
01865	Scoil Shéamais (= 19803?)	Bearna		
13914	?*Rathún	Bearna (An Bhuaile Bheag)	Not on RG1; Gaelt-RG2	
Moycullen Area				
13856	*Páirc na Scoiche	Gaillimh		
13415	Na Tuairíní	Maigh Cuilinn		
19529	Maigh Cuilinn	Maigh Cuilinn	Opened in 1978	
		incorporating	Leamhchoill	18136 # 4. 9.78
			& Maigh Cuilinn	15708 # 4. 9.78
15331	An Baile Nua	Maigh Cuilinn	Closed 1978: Reopened 1. 9.81	
08446	Tulaigh Mhic Aodháin	Maigh Cuilinn	(No grants)	
14590	*Ros Cathail			

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GALWAY

SCHOOL YEAR	1973/'4		1974/'5		1975/'6		1976/'7		1977/'8		1978/'9		1979/80		1980/'1		1981/'2		1982/'3		1983/'4	
ÁRAINN																						
INIS OÍRR	44	**51**	39	**54**	40	**56**	43	**54**	44	**53**	44	**51**	44	**51**	46	**50**	45	**48**	44	**56**	42	**49**
INIS MEÁIN	46	**54**	49	**52**	48	**53**	40	**45**	35	**38**	28	**33**	30	**35**	29	**32**	25	**28**	24	**28**	21	**29**
EOGHANACHT	17	**17**	16	**19**	14	**23**	16	**22**	18	**24**	18	**29**	22	**32**	27	**36**	25	**39**	25	**41**	24	**39**
A'CHEATHRAIR ÁLAINN	22	**27**	22	**25**	21	**26**	20	**26**	21	**29**	20	**25**	18	**23**	19	**27**	23	**27**	15	**24**	14	**21**
CILL RÓNÁIN	71	**149**	73	**89**	74	**93**	74	**90**	73	**93**	72	**85**	66	**90**	64	**85**	64	**80**	51	**71**	45	**65**
CARNA																						
? N.TREASA, CAISEAL	0	..	1	**34**	2	**31**	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..
MAÍROS	27	**32**	30	**31**	27	**38**	28	**38**	28	**40**	33	**42**	32	**47**	39	**51**	47	**49**	49	**57**	47	**55**
AN AIRD THIAR	51	**54**	48	**51**	48	**52**	39	**45**	36	**43**	33	**43**	34	**41**	27	**39**	34	**38**	36	**42**	39	**45**
CARNA	59	**82**	45	**67**	47	**73**	34	**69**	23	**73**	19	**73**	18	**75**	23	**74**	30	**86**	32	**90**	35	**95**
AN AIRD MHÓR	63	**68**	57	**59**	48	**56**	49	**58**	45	**60**	41	**51**	38	**47**	29	**50**	34	**47**	38	**44**	31	**43**
CILL CHIARÁIN	43	**56**	51	**66**	51	**68**	46	**63**	44	**57**	52	**63**	44	**77**	53	**79**	54	**82**	50	**86**	52	**86**
MAÍNIS	38	**46**	36	**39**	34	**38**	33	**35**	34	**42**	33	**40**	29	**35**	27	**30**	24	**28**	21	**23**	21	**25**
ROS MUC - AN CHEATHRÚ RUA																						
ROS MUC	61	**70**	51	**61**	53	**66**	55	**71**	52	**61**	54	**61**	56	**64**	46	**58**	47	**57**	50	**59**	47	**55**
AN GORT MÓR	38	**56**	41	**52**	47	**50**	46	**58**	47	**56**	40	**57**	42	**65**	42	**57**	49	**62**	46	**62**	47	**60**
CAMAS	38	**44**	37	**47**	32	**41**	38	**44**	31	**38**	33	**50**	33	**48**	35	**53**	43	**60**	39	**51**	39	**51**
LEITIR MUCÚ	35	**37**	35	**40**	35	**41**	35	**44**	36	**47**	39	**51**	44	**54**	43	**54**	50	**63**	57	**68**	62	**69**
AN TUAIRÍN	71	**80**	69	**86**	68	**85**	70	**87**	76	**84**	67	**72**	63	**77**	75	**78**	76	**92**	72	**90**	63	**72**
AN CHEATHRÚ RUA	136	**149**	131	**145**	132	**143**	133	**153**	120	**146**	115	**156**	132	**175**	177	**(172**	183	**(175**	195	**(183**	188	**(178**
ditto (NAÍONÁIN)	59	**91**	49	**87**	38	**89**	37	**92**	35	**106**	32	**109**	28	**106**		**(110**		**(113**		**(112**		**(112**
CEANTAR NA nOILEÁN																						
LEITIR MEALLÁIN	48	**51**	45	**55**	46	**55**	44	**56**	46	**55**	52	**54**	44	**52**	43	**54**	40	**53**	38	**47**	38	**48**
AN CNOC	29	**34**	28	**33**	27	**31**	29	**35**	28	**30**	30	**35**	26	**29**	25	**26**	23	**30**	21	**29**	25	**33**
INIS TREABHAIR	7	**8**	7	**7**	4	**4**	4	**5**	2	**3**	3	..	3	..	CLOSED							
TÍR AN FHIA	85	**98**	76	**86**	67	**77**	50	**69**	52	**65**	49	**62**	43	**55**	40	**51**	41	**59**	40	**57**	35	**54**
AN TRÁ BHÁIN	52	**57**	46	**60**	49	**59**	47	**62**	41	**55**	48	**55**	43	**47**	44	**47**	46	**48**	43	**48**	41	**46**
AN DROIM	32	**32**	31	**32**	26	**35**	29	**34**	29	**36**	36	**39**	36	**40**	43	**41**	41	**46**	45	**54**	38	**53**
LEITIR MÓIR	76	**92**	71	**92**	75	**98**	75	**87**	64	**89**	62	**76**	58	**70**	50	**60**	41	**56**	40	**56**	42	**50**
LEITIR CALAIDH	24	**29**	25	**31**	23	**33**	27	**34**	28	**36**	34	**37**	30	**36**	33	**35**	33	**36**	28	**33**	32	**36**
ROS AN MHÍL - BEARNA																						
NA DOIRIÚ	81	**96**	84	**100**	94	**112**	83	**122**	101	**136**	101	**130**	106	**128**	102	**125**	107	**133**	108	**143**	116	**140**
AN TULAIGH	69	**80**	66	**84**	62	**83**	71	**94**	67	**100**	74	**100**	78	**108**	90	**121**	92	**127**	85	**125**	96	**125**
SAILEARNA	86	**122**	95	**111**	98	**117**	101	**140**	106	**155**	129	**168**	124	**172**	119	**166**	115	**162**	134	**176**	128	**180**
CL. MHUIRE, SPIDÉAL	79	**149**	88	**163**	90	**160**	94	**162**	81	**186**	91	**203**	106	**197**	97	**205**	111	**203**	91	**200**	111	**182**
SC. MHICHÍL, "	49	**60**	59	**76**	61	**77**	59	**77**	53	**78**	59	**71**	52	**65**	50	**67**	65	**83**	69	**86**	91	**100**
NA FORBACHA, BEARNA	27	**64**	33	**68**	28	**77**	19	**85**	18	**93**	20	**103**	9	**114**	13	**116**	19	**115**	41	**117**	57	**124**
SC. SHÉAMAIS "	34	**149**	40	**174**	47	**177**	39	**206**	34	**202**	22	**218**	6	**219**	16	**222**	11	**238**	9	**256**	13	..
*RATHÚN, "	2	**31**	1	**28**	1	**35**	1	**32**			1	**41**							1	**61**		
MOYCULLEN AREA																						
*PÁIRC NA SCEICHE	1	**66**			1	**122**	2	**158**			2	**185**							3	**238**		
NA TUAIRÍNÍ	7	**61**	8	**61**	5	**62**	2	**63**	5	**56**	9	**57**	15	**59**	20	**67**	21	**58**	13	**54**	15	**54**
LEAMHCHOILL	23	**47**	20	**45**	16	**39**	18	**42**	16	**37**	CLOSED: see next entry											
MAIGH CUILINN	11	**128**	8	**144**	9	**155**	13	**162**	5	**166**	CLOSED: see next entry											
LÁRSCOIL MAIGH CUILINN											17	**210**	9	**(286**	4	**(290**	12	**232**	0	**228**	12	**231**
AN BAILE NUA	15	**65**	28	**62**	20	**60**	21	**72**	25	**75**	22	..	34(		39(		51	**76**	51	**79**	59	**88**
TULAIGH MHIC AODHÁIN	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..
*ROS CATHAIL	5	**87**	6	**83**	2	**90**	1	**92**														

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Galway Primary Schools (Continued)

Roll No.	School	Address	Closed/Amalgamated & Comments	
Galway City				
16937	*Scoil Fhursa	Gaillimh		
19371	*Scoil Iognáid	Gaillimh		
18634	*Scoil Íde	Bóthar na Trá, Gaillimh		
18929	*Scoil Éinne	Bóthar na Trá, Gaillimh		
19226	*An Baile Bán	Gaillimh		
19241	*Coláiste N. Doimnic	Gaillimh		
17784	*Scoil Phádraig	Gaillimh		
16943	*Scoil San Nioclás	An Cladach, Gaillimh		
04515	*Clochar na Trócaire	Newtownsmith, Gaillimh		
19047	*Scoil Speisialta	An Caisleán Nua		
19201	*Scoil Speisialta	An Rinn Mhór		
17845	*Cnoc Mhaol Drise	Gaillimh		
East Galway				
17759	Mionlach	Mionlach		
17221	An Caisleán Gearr	An Caisleán Gearr		
12662	An Carn Mór (= 19828?)	Órán Mór		
16804	Baile Chláir	Baile Chláir	+ Baile Chláir	16805 # 1. 7.70
09069	*An Bán Mór	Baile Chláir		
17491	?*Baile Grifín	Cor an Dola	(No grants) Gaelt-RG1; Gallt-RG2	
16975	Scoil Bhríde	Cor an Dola	(No grants)	
18163	Eanach Dhúin	Cor an Dola		
18289	*Scoil Sheosaimh	Béal Átha an Chláir, Gaillimh (Cnoc Meadha)		
18876	*Baile Cúisín	Tuaim	(Technically in County Mayo)	
Joyce Country				
13439	*Clochar na Trócaire	Uachtar Ard		
04786	*Scoil Chuimín	Uachtar Ard		
18252	*Doire Oirthir Ghlinne	Uachtar Ard		
19357	Tír Na Cille	An Mám	+ Tír na Cille	11884 # 7.10.75
			& Coill Mhíolcon	12644 # 7.10.75
18581	Corr na Móna	Corr Na Móna	+ An Cheathrú Gharbh	14654 # 5. 9.66
14712	Scoil Phádraig	An Fhairche	+ An Clochar	16894 # 1. 7.73
12106	An Chloch Bhreac	An Fhairche	+ Driseachán	16647 # 21. 4.69
Amalgamated with a Galltacht school:			Loch Eidhneach	16007 # 26. 8.68
19403	Sraith Salach	Opened 1976	+ Doire Bhó Riada	16599 # 6. 7.76
13190	*Sc. Mhuire na Trócaire	An Clochán		
17584	*Sc. Na mBuachaillí	An Clochán		

SCHOOL YEAR	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
GALWAY CITY											
*SCOIL FHURSA	14 254	18 238	13 252	13 251	16 254	11 248	8 254	15 277	12 280	15 302	19 298
*SCOIL IOGNÁID	14 221	12 227	10 207	9 207	12 228	16 250	9 274	7 288	13 314	6 307	8 387
*SC. ÍDE BR. NA TRÁ	1 356	1 339	3 336			2 377	1 360			1 375	4 369
*SCOIL ÉINNE ditto	2 321	2 316	1 301								
*AN BAILE BÁN	1 957	3 918	4 974	2 975							
*COLÁISTE DOIMNIC	1 447		1 485	1 534	1 598	1 597	1 614				
*SCOIL PHÁDRAIG	1 731	1 696									
*SAN NIOCLÁS	3 190	2 188	2 200		1 202						
*CL.TRÓC.NEWT'SMITH	2 547	1 497	3 482	2 494	2 503	7 534	1 524				
*SC.SP. CAISLEÁN NUA	5 77	5 70	6 70	5 68	4 65	2 63	2 62				
*SC.SP. AN RINN MHÓR								2 162	2 136	2 ...	
*CNOC MHAOL DRISE						1 118	2 128	3 125	4 129	4 129	3 131
EAST GALWAY											
MIONLACH	25 42	27 49	19 55	7 61	11 66	7 67	4 83	0 87	1 96	2 94	1 106
AN CAISLEÁN GEARR	37 106	22 113	10 111	7 122	7 125	3 125	0 125	0 120	3 109	4 105	2 114
AN CARN MÓR	8 69	13 75	21 75	15 87	38 86	32 93	27 93	21 88	22 89	20 91	19 100
BAILE CHLÁIR	4 128	5 128	4 135	2 150	7 157	3 177	6 189	2 201	5 216	4 233	9 244
*AN BÁN MÓR	2 88	3 86	2 96	2 91							
? BAILE GRIFÍN	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..
COR AN DOLA	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 97	0 101	0 102
EANACH DHÚIN	0 48	0 45	4 49	4 52	1 58	2 57	1 63	3 79	2 80	5 91	4 101
*BÉAL ÁTHA AN CHLÁIR	6 57	4 55	2 58		1 61	2 57					
*BAILE CÚISÍN	1 42	1 46	1 50								
JOYCE COUNTRY											
*CL TRÓC.,UACHTAR ARD	5 179	6 177	4 176	3 187	4 187	2 177	4 200	4 205	6 158	7 197	4 178
*SC.CHUIMÍN	4 88	5 96	2 100		3 90	4 85	3 91		2 83	4 89	6 89
*DOIRE OIR. GHLINNE			2 23	1 18							
COILL MHÍOLCON	1 11	0 9	CLOSED: see next entry								
TÍR NA CILLE	0 ..	0 ..	CLOSED: see next entry								
TÍR NA CILLE	14 26	13 22	12 22	3 43	7 44	6 42	2 39	0 35	1 37	0 35	0 34
CORR NA MÓNA	24 60	26 56	22 58	22 61	21 63	31 60	42 57	41 54	39 63	38 71	41 69
PÁDRAIG, AN FHAIRCHE	4 81	2 84	2 86	5 80	3 79	2 80	4 77	2 77	5 75	4 80	7 76
AN CHLOCH BHREAC	29 43	33 43	31 42	35 41	33 41	31 40	23 39	30 42	30 41	22 43	23 38
DOIRE BHÓ RIADA	9 37	7 32	6 26	CLOSED: see next entry							
SRAITH SALACH			OPENED:	6 54	3 51	6 50	5 50	6 47	0 39	8 47	14 54
*MUIRE, AN CLOCHÁN										2 229	1 225
*BUACHAILLÍ, ditto											1 45

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Mayo Primary Schools Arranged by Location

Roll No.	School	Address	Closed/Amalgamated & Comments	
Belmullet A				
12373	An Eachléim	Béal an Mhuirthead		
14258	An Chill Mhór	Béal an Mhuirthead	(No grants)	
15014	An Chorrchloch	Béal an Mhuirthead		
18594	Achadh an Ghlaisín	Béal an Mhuirthead		
17727	Béal an Mhuirthead	Béal an Mhuirthead	+ Béal An Mhuirthead	14851 # 8. 9.69
17923	Cl. na Trócaire (Naíonáin)	Béal an Mhuirthead	(No grants)	
Belmullet B				
11582	Béal Deirg	Béal an Átha	(No grants)	
13882	Gleann na Muaidhe	Béal an Átha		
15032	Ceathrú Thaidhg	Béal an Átha		
12569	Ros Dumhach	Béal an Átha		
16283	Poll an Tómais	Béal an Átha		
12568	An tInbhear	Barr na Trá	(No grants)	
14188	Barr na Trá	Béal an Átha	(No grants)	
Belmullet C				
13222	Gleann Chaisil	Bun na hAbhna	+ Ráth Muireagáin	15966 # 27. 9.68
13383	An tSraith	Bun na hAbhna		
14193	Dumha Thuama	Gaoth Sáile	+ Gaoth Sáile	17446 # 1. 2.72
19776	Gaoth Sáile	Gaoth Sáile	Opened in 1981	
		incorporating	Cnoc na Lobhar	16855 # 1. 9.81
			& Gaoth Sáile	12958 # 1. 9.81
		which already incl.	Dumha Locha	13959 # 15. 1.67
Corrán/Acaill				
16113	Tóin re Gaoth	Cathair na Mart		
16295	An Corrán	Gob an Choire	+ Béal Fearsaide	16374 # 30. 6.70
17596	An Doirín	Gob an Choire	+ An tEasléim	16627 # 19.12.68
14863	Gob an Choire	Cathair na Mart		
16052	Sáile	Gob an Choire		
18754	Bun an Churraigh	Bun an Churraigh	+ Bun An Churraigh	16902 # 16.12.69
			& Dumha Éige	17651 # 23.10.70
16379	Tóin an tSeanbhaile	Dumha Goirt, Acaill		
14866	Béal an Bhalláin	Bun an Churraigh		
17524	Inis Bigil	Cathair na Mart	(No grants)	
Loch Measc Area				
Amalgamated with a Galltacht school: ...			Doire An Daimh Dheirg	13469 # 21. 9.69
15073	An tSraith	Clár Chlainne Mhuiris		
12689	An Trian Láir	Clár Chlainne Mhuiris	+ Gleann Sáil	12627 # 30. 9.74
12626	Coill an tSiáin	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh		
16852	Páirc an Doire	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	+ Fionnaithe	12485 # 30. 6.72
			& Seanadh Faracháin	12646 # 1. 7.72
Others				
12350	*Caisleán na hÁille	Clár Chlainne Mhuiris		
13502	*Baile an Róba	Baile an Róba		
19248	*Scoil Speisialta	Caisleán an Bharraigh		

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SCHOOL YEAR	1973/'4		1974/'5		1975/'6		1976/'7		1977/'8		1978/'9		1979/80		1980/'1		1981/'2		1982/'3		1983/'4	
BELMULLET A																						
AN EACHLÉIM	37	78	35	74	34	83	28	97	36	125	41	120	42	117	47	115	70	113	66	114	70	108
AN CHILL MHÓR	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..
AN CHORRCHLOCH	0	49	0	49	0	53	1	52	6	56	10	57	10	55	9	51	5	66	6	72	25	70
ACHADH AN GHLAISÍN	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	60	0	70	0	72	1	73	2	75	0	71
BÉAL AN MHUIRTHEAD	2	165	3	164	3	160	4	154	4	164	4	179	6	183	2	197	11	198	2	192	2	188
CL. TRÓC. " (NAÍON)	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..
BELMULLET B																						
BÉAL DEIRG	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..
GLEANN NA MUAIDHE	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	48	2	48	2	44	2	45	1	47	0	45
CEATHRÚ THAIDHG	70	79	66	78	65	78	65	84	66	81	59	77	63	81	57	70	52	71	57	83	59	85
ROS DUMHACH	16	75	15	73	14	71	10	71	8	71	7	65	3	59	5	55	6	59	5	60	2	68
POLL AN TÓMAIS	1	120	2	111	4	110	2	114	0	..	1	98	1	97	2	84	3	84	6	82	4	78
AN tINBHEAR	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..
BARR NA TRÁ	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	53	0	50	0	48	0	47	0	48	0	45
BELMULLET C																						
GLEANN CHAISIL	3	76	2	76	2	66	1	58	0	..	0	55	1	53	0	46	0	46	0	50	0	52
AN tSRAITH	5	70	4	59	3	67	2	66	1	55	3	51	2	59	3	56	2	56	2	50	5	49
DUMHA THUAMA	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	92	0	102	5	116	2	118	0	40	2	106
CNOC NA LOBHAR	0	42	0	39	3	34	1	41	2	33	7	35	6	30	4	26	CLOSED: see next entry					
GAOTH SÁILE	11	60	8	58	7	64	6	60	4	57	5	62	5	63	5	76	CLOSED: see next entry					
GAOTH SÁILE (NUA)																	9	109	14	110	12	103
CORRÁN/ACAILL																						
TÓIN RE GAOTH	12	49	7	43	3	44	1	44	0	..	2	49	8	45	13	53	11	47	13	51	10	51
AN CORRÁN	0	75	2	75	2	69	1	73	2	75	5	76	13	73	15	67	16	70	15	71	17	69
AN DOIRÍN	0	70	0	70	0	67	1	70	1	69	0	71	0	72	5	68	8	69	4	21	1	50
GOB AN CHOIRE	3	68	3	71	3	71	2	71	1	72	0	81	1	84	1	94	3	100	2	103	15	97
SÁILE	6	35	4	36	2	38	5	37	5	36	3	33	9	36	9	41	7	48	7	51	5	47
BUN AN CHURRAIGH	9	68	13	83	7	78	2	77	7	90	5	92	13	99	19	99	29	102	24	105	18	108
TÓIN AN tSEANBHAILE	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	6	52
BÉAL AN BHALLÁIN	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	3	44	5	41	0	..	5	37	4	35
INIS BIGIL	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..
LOCH MEASC AREA																						
AN tSRAITH	9	40	4	40	17	42	9	38	11	50	16	46	14	51	9	47	6	48	12	47	12	44
GLEANN SÁIL	9	19	5	20	CLOSED: see next entry																	
AN TRIAN LÁIR	0	68	0	63	5	85	5	80	5	85	3	83	5	80	1	78	14	79	16	80	13	77
COILL AN tSIÁIN	21	40	16	42	19	41	23	34	30	38	27	41	33	41	31	42	22	46	34	44	34	43
PÁIRC AN DOIRE	44	51	47	53	28	49	27	44	17	35	17	28	14	27	4	27	17	25	17	24	14	27
OTHERS																						
*CAISLEÁN NA hÁILLE	3	125	2	124	1	119	3	119														
*BAILE AN RÓBA	1	224	1	233	1	236																
*CAISLEÁN A'BHARRAIGH	1	70									1	64										

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Kerry Primary Schools arranged by Location

Roll No.	School	Address	Closed/Amalgamated & Comments	
Corca Dhuibhne				
14987	An Clochán	Caisleán Ghriaire		
14767	*Abha an Chaisle	An Com		
10755	Baile an Fheirtéaraigh	An Daingean	+ Baile an Fheirtéaraigh	16290 # 30. 6.67
16456	An Fheothanach	An Daingean	+ Baile na nGall	14480 # 30. 6.67
06227	Smeirbhic	An Daingean		
16281	Dún Chaoin	An Daingean		
16779	Cill Mhic an Domhnaigh	Ceann Trá		
15592	Ceann Trá	An Daingean	+ Fionán Naofa	16892 # 16.11.67
11248	Na Gleannta	An Daingean		
00538	Clochar na Toirbhirte	An Daingean		
16703	Na Bráithre	An Daingean		
15660	Cluain Churtha	Lios Póil		
10182	Caisleán na Mine Airde	Abhainn an Scáil		
16217	*An Bhreac-chluain	Abhainn an Scáil		
Uíbh Ráthach				
10819	*Baile an Tiarna	Dairbhre		
08147	An Gleann	Baile an Sceilg		
16014	*Fionán	An Coireán	+ Achadh Tiobraid	13796 # 5. 9.68
18409	Lóthar	An Coireán	+ Gleann Mhór	13973 # 30. 6.77
19304	An Chillín Liath	Máistir Gaoithe	+Máistir Gaoithe	04463 # 2. 9.73
			& Máistir Gaoithe	16018 # 13. 7.73
		which already incl.	Doire	12121 # 30. 6.68
19436	Baile an Sceilg	Cill Airne	Opened in 1979	
		incorporating	Baile an Sceilg	08349 # 9. 2.79
			& An tImleach Mór	03784 # 19. 2.79
		which already incl.	An tImleach Mór	14083 # 30. 6.68
Amalgamated with a Galltacht school:			Cill Relig	14965 # 30. 8.65
08530	*An Láithreach	Cill Airne		
09878	*Achadh Tiobraid	Cill Airne		
10239	*Cathair Dónall	Cill Airne	incorporating	14183 # 10. 9.67

Cork Primary Schools arranged by Location

Roll No.	School	Address	Closed/Amalgamated & Comments	
14303	Cléire	Dún na Séad		
12399	Barr Duínse	Cúil Aodha		
06824	Cúil Aodha	Maigh Chromtha		
15346	Baile Bhuirne	Maigh Chromtha		
14993	Ré na nDoirí	Maigh Chromtha		
10471	?*Cúil an Bhuacaigh	Maigh Chromtha	Gaelt-RG1; Gallt-RG2	
14816	Baile Uí Bhuaigh	Maigh Chromtha	Not on RG1; Gaelt-RG2	
14839	Garrán Uí Chearnaigh	Cluain Droichead	Not on RG1; Gaelt-RG2	
13193	*Cill Éanna	Baile Eoin, Maigh Chromtha		
19637	Fionnbarr	Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh	Opened 1982	
		incorporating	Céim an Fhia	16210 # . .82
			& Béal Átha An Ghaorthaidh	14580 # . .82
			& Béal Átha An Ghaorthaidh	13211 # . .82
18422	*Scoil Na nÓg	Gleann Maghair		
04845	*Doire Chonaire	An Gleann Garbh		

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KERRY

SCHOOL YEAR	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
CORCA DHUIBHNE											
AN CLOCHÁN	14 81	22 80	35 80	56 79	53 73	46 70	38 71	33 64	26 62	18 53	16 64
*ABHA AN CHAISLE			1 92	1 106	2 108	2 122	2 113	2 119	1 125	1 124	
B. AN FHEIRTÉARAIGH	96 117	100 123	92 115	94 115	93 114	75 104	84 101	74 101	80 92	73 99	74 90
AN FHEOTHANACH	93 114	87 101	85 100	75 88	73 88	69 84	66 78	59 74	56 69	59 77	58 79
SMEIRBHIC	39 49	38 45	33 44	33 40	31 43	33 45	35 49	40 56	42 52	39 57	42 64
DÚN CHAOIN	5 5	0 5	4 6	5 13	6 16	12 16	10 17	13 19	14 28	15 24	19 24
CILLMHICA'DOMHNAIGH	16 23	17 21	16 19	15 23	7 17	8 21	9 18	12 18	10 20	11 24	12 21
CEANN TRÁ	39 64	53 65	47 63	47 63	43 61	35 55	30 53	39 56	37 63	42 68	46 65
NA GLEANNTA	23 39	21 27	19 24	19 23	19 25	19 27	16 28	19 29	22 34	24 29	22 34
AN DAINGEAN: CLOCHAR	12 156	17 145	17 140	18 150	16 158	18 182	19 198	32 195	30 190	35 184	23 176
AN DAINGEAN: BRÁITHRE	4 81	9 77	13 88	16 75	17 81	16 76	14 75	15 74	14 79	12 78	13 84
CLUAIN CHURTHA	15 54	42 51	44 57	44 56	41 57	35 63	21 61	35 64	33 70	29 71	27 81
CAISL.NA MINE AIRDE	43 66	47 71	51 76	51 65	39 61	44 61	36 55	35 51	30 44	29 37	14 22
*AN BHREAC-CHLUAIN	1 123	5 127	5 125	5 129	6 126	3 132	3 143	6 136	8 137	2 137	2 150
UÍBH RÁTHACH											
*BAILE AN TIARNA	1 50	1 50									
AN GLEANN	13 41	11 40	11 45	6 39	5 34	5 34	4 31	4 31	3 31	4 29	6 34
*FIONÁN, AN COIREÁN			5 84	3 90	4 96	3 97	2 103	1 115			
GLEANN MHÓR	15 15	10 11	9 9	7 10	CLOSED: see next entry						
LÓTHAR	25 35	24 33	16 30	12 28	11 32	8 34	6 32	14 29	10 32	11 26	7 21
AN CHILLÍN LIATH	71 98	69 97	70 102	48 94	32 95	31 105	25 104	36 113	34 111	31 114	24 104
AN tIMLEACH MÓR	12 39	7 45	7 43	5 36	2 35	7 39	CLOSED: see next entry				
BAILE AN SCEILG	4 29	5 34	8 33	7 41	6 42	5 41	CLOSED: see next entry				
BAILE AN SCEILG NUA							5 83	10 79	15 80	11 89	8 86
*AN LÁITHREACH	1 34										
*ACHADH TIOBRAID	1 81	1 73	1 76								
*CATHAIR DÓNALL											1 82
CORK											
CLÉIRE	17 21	18 22	14 19	18 26	18 23	16 21	18 21	18 23	16 20	11 20	12 20
BARR DUÍNSE	13 28	14 26	20 31	18 26	14 26	15 27	15 30	12 28	11 28	10 33	5 23
CÚIL AODHA	16 31	27 31	25 36	28 35	23 37	25 41	27 41	29 40	30 36	26 34	32 48
BAILE BHUIRNE	31 112	33 130	32 147	35 159	25 162	25 180	19 186	17 193	29 197	22 203	14 201
RÉ NA nDOIRÍ	13 30	19 29	14 33	13 34	12 42	9 41	6 45	10 50	17 55	16 51	9 50
? CÚIL AN BHUACAIGH	20 26	18 24	18 21	18 24	18 22	14 20	12 16	7 16	6 9	5 10	0 ..
BAILE UÍ BHUAIGH	30 112	49 101	54 106	36 102	36 114	22 106	22 99	27 89	26 81	20 82	19 91
GARRÁN UÍ CHEARNAIGH	8 124	4 124	3 128	4 139	3 127	3 120	2 112	1 109	0 119	0 111	0 108
*CILL ÉANNA	3 40	2 41	1 47	1 45							
CÉIM AN FHIA	2 25	4 28	6 30	6 22	6 17	6 19	5 18	3 15	3 14	CLOSED:) see	
BÉAL Á'N GHAOR. (C)	30 53	31 49	27 47	33 54	26 57	31 59	29 62	19 58	22 63	CLOSED:) next	
BÉAL Á'N GHAOR. (B)	27 69	28 66	25 65	25 62	18 62	19 58	16 57	15 58	15 64	CLOSED:) entry	
BÉAL Á'N GHAOR. NUA										39 145	32 138
*SC. N'nÓG, GLN.MR.	1 91			2 121	1 119	1 118					
*DOIRE CHONAIRE	2 18	2 21	1 20								

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Waterford Primary Schools arranged by Location

Roll No.	School	Address	Closed/Amalgamated & Comments
17295	An Rinn	Dún Garbhán	
05548	Baile Mhac Airt	An Rinn	
16818	Scoil Na Leanbh	An Rinn	Speisialta/Chónaithe/Gaeilge.
13473	*Na nAingeal Naofa	Dún Garbhán	

Meath Primary Schools arranged by Location

Roll No.	School	Address	Closed/Amalgamated & Comments
17088	Ó Gramhna	Ráth Cairn	
17203	Domhnach Phádraig	Baile Ghib	
17513	?*Cill Bhríde	Baile Átha Troim	Not on RG1; Gaelt-RG2
18174	?*Baile Óraí	Ceannanas	Not on RG1; Gaelt-RG2 (No grants)

WATERFORD																						
AN RINN	54	106	39	109	59	108	62	112	65	107	66	102	46	105	66	98	60	103	67	103	64	105
BAILE MHAC AIRT	27	45	25	52	23	48	26	47	20	57	26	53	26	53	21	58	31	61	33	60	22	60
SCOIL NA LEANBH	1	180	1	184	2	182	1	182	1	182	0	180	0	181	5	181	3	181	3	182	1	181
*NA nAINGEAL NAOFA																	2	314				
MEATH																						
RÁTH CAIRN	29	46	26	40	22	50	20	61	23	61	18	62	26	64	45	67	57	75	62	77	61	83
BAILE GHIB	22	86	20	83	27	82	27	81	12	81	9	78	23	76	25	73	18	65	23	60	25	67
? CILL BHRÍDE	2	79	2	77	2	84	3	69	0	..	2	68	2	80	0	86	0	81	0	82	0	82
? BAILE ÓRAÍ	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..

DONEGAL POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL GRANTS BY LOCATION

SCHOOL	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
*LEITIR CEANAINN:											
*COLÁISTE LORETO	1 409	1 466	1 481	2 484	2 542	7 580	2 600	5 620	7 662	5 675	7 696
*COLÁISTE ADHÁMHÁIN				1 418							
*AN CEARDSCOIL	3 318		1 365				2 375	1 372	2 387	2 378	2 402
*SRATH AN URLÁIR:											
*COLÁISTE COLUMBA	17 310	16 368	11 410	14 457	21 517	11 563	12 602	12 633	13 688	13 722	15 782
*AN CEARDSCOIL	3 215	6 229	5 226	10 213	6 214	6 207	7 243	6 258	2 295	2 291	1 262
*BAILE NA nGALLÓGLACH:											
*COLÁISTE LORETO	59 421	61 433	76 485	80 566	81 602	80 655	86 675	79 688	99 696	85 756	104 751
*AN CEARDSCOIL	28 209	30 233	38 235	41 246	37 239	15 224	31 224	34 248	26 225	21 269	13 271
PS CLOICH CHIONNAOLA	178 451	165 464	200 524	223 593	217 624	203 622	253 639	252 646	256 692	305 762	303 805
PS GAOTH DOBHAIR	191 226	209 251	225 243	223 255	246 293	247 309	285 321	294 320	303 355	314 366	298 348
PS NA ROSSAN	52 242	51 226	57 245	59 253	53 268	51 328	62 376	61 422	62 462	55 471	52 432
GS BÉAL AN ÁTHA MÓIR								OPENED:	19 ??	21 32	
*SC NA GLEANNTAÍ	73 406	60 408	71 412	67 403	72 407	57 431	53 410	57 408	64 415	39 439	37 420
CS AN CHARRAIG	96 205	99 225	100 223	103 210	94 197	69 201	68 211	67 215	74 230	65 251	63 256

GALWAY POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL GRANTS BY LOCATION

SCHOOL	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
*GALWAY CITY SCHOOLS:											
*COL. DOMINIC	8 376	12 394	10 413	8 456	10 465	10 515	9 550	11 579	19 565	15 569	20 570
*COL. IOGNÁID	20 240	24 264	20 283	28 320	34 355	21 380	23 425	19 432	17 441	25 423	20 458
*COL. SHEOSAIMH	7 589	9 604	9 610	6 628	2 630	1 635	4 666	3 680	6 694		4 699
*COL. ÉINDE	20 172	15 193	17 200	15 214	16 271	19 272	23 271	19 250	27 264	27 283	16 327
*COL. MHUIRE			5 292	6 295	5 283	4 302	4 304	2 328	10 369	11 415	6 427
*CL. TOIR., RATHÚN	9 237	7 242	7 257	3 275	9 278	4 283	4 292	2 301	6 320	8 340	8 368
*MS MHUIRE	21 448	17 440	20 460	17 446	12 446	2 433	2 456	4 453	3 451		2 493
*MS SALERNO	24 212	15 236	20 239	21 258	25 284	30 321	31 341	27 350	27 368	22 400	18 402
*GS ATHAIR Ó GRÍOFA	42 429	44 412	35 462	26 449	22 483	19 458	18 467	19 461	23 499	29 522	30 542
*CS MÓINÍN NA gCIS.	14 496	8 545	9 602	10 624	7 644	4 617			3 647		
*OTHER GALLTACHT SCHOOLS:											
*PS AN CLOCHÁN		3 281	3 308				1 327	1 344	2 334	2 336	
*MS PÓL, UACHTAR ARD	22 189	22 203	24 217	17 215	18 204	13 225	10 228	6 236	2 261	5 267	
*CL. TOIR., ÓRÁN MÓR	1 200	1 179	3 188								
GAELTACHT SCHOOLS:											
COL. AN SPIDÉAL	120 227	140 227	153 224	130 216	120 212	109 198	92 196	98 189	116 199	136 224	145 244
CS INDREABHÁN	83 92	78 84	97 101	95 105	81 95	85 99	98 109	109 115	105 122	109 128	101 130
SC AN CHEATHRÚ RUA	319 338	315 340	311 354	314 350	292 329	301 346	279 300	302 314	332 372	342 376	352 383
GS ROS MUC	48 48	42 49	38 40	34 36	47 49	53 57	42 44	41 42	36 38	35 41	37 40
CS CILL RÓNÁIN	51 51	42 47	63 64	64 67	54 58	45 59	50 57	56 63	46 62	68 74	69 79
PS CARNA	157 205	133 190	121 183	138 188	135 187	123 178	109 170	126 161	136 165	111 167	133 171
CS CORR NA MÓNA	42 58	44 62	56 74	34 70	36 75	33 62	38 60	35 69	39 70	38 70	36 75

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MAYO POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL GRANTS BY LOCATION

SCHOOL	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
NORTH MAYO											
BÉAL AN MHUIRTHEAD:											
CLOCHAR NA TRÓCAIRE	38 352	34 350	30 355	21 341	24 344	26 336	32 335	36 321	40 334	43 331	49 354
GS BÉAL A'MHUIRTHEAD	27 210	13 195	14 231	13 245	13 225	15 229	25 256	30 306	24 292	27 306	22 281
GS ROS DUMHACH	47 73	36 76	30 63	32 67	37 73	42 77	29 74	40 76	48 80	43 78	50 94
GS GAOTH SÁILE	2 97	1 82	2 69	3 52	0 42	1 40	0 28	CLOSED			
MID MAYO											
ACAILL:											
MS DAMHNAIT, ACAILL	6 128	13 133	15 135	9 119	13 109	14 115	10 121	13 131	22 139	23 144	28 168
GS CAISEAL, ACAILL	10 161	12 159	9 183	5 201	10 184	11 173	12 178	16 189	33 221	24 232	24 242
SOUTH MAYO											
COL. TUAR MHIC ÉAD.	15 198	11 190	18 192	21 189	23 197	24 198	25 194	36 200	32 180	42 180	44 187
***BAILE AN RÓBA:**											
*MS NA mBRÁITHRE	8 152	8 157	10 180	8 157	5 136	5 158	2 163	7 161	5 168	10 188	9 189
*CLOCHAR NA TRÓCAIRE					1 233						3 266
*GS BAILE AN RÓBA	14 227	12 213	9 243	8 248	9 230	17 219	13 204	8 219	7 198	4 195	3 175

KERRY POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL GRANTS BY LOCATION

SCHOOL	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
CORCA DHUIBHNE											
AN DAINGEAN											
MS NA mBRÁITHRE	90 166	111 165	112 145	95 142	101 142	109 147	107 156	143 183	127 171	137 189	130 193
CL. NA TOIRBHIRTE	113 165	109 157	129 173	131 169	132 175	143 176	135 184	165 202	166 208	157 208	156 209
AN CEARDSCOIL	61 76	51 85	59 82	69 98	50 79	49 56	34 52	24 33	37 47	37 53	40 53
MS LEITH TRIÚIGH	6 103	8 107	13 101	27 83	33 78	25 73	26 79	28 82	25 78	31 88	29 93
UÍBH RÁTHACH											
***CATHAIR SAIDHBHÍN**											
*MS NA mBRÁITHRE	25 153	20 144	22 137	20 140	11 138	15 145	9 142	13 126	11 130	7 120	8 125
*MS EOIN BOSCO	29 192	23 201	20 212	26 222	22 216	23 217	18 223	21 226	18 225	17 235	21 229
*AN CEARDSCOIL	18 182	18 181	20 202	19 197	19 175	9 154	9 140	8 141	8 143	8 148	7 151
*CS AN COIREÁN	47 91	38 90	35 85	30 69	25 77	25 92	24 118	30 139	38 156	38 162	31 183

CORK POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL GRANTS BY LOCATION

SCHOOL	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
***MAIGH CHROMTHA**											
*CLOCHAR NA TRÓCAIRE	8 281	5 286	11 293	16 321	9 316	7 320	6 318	7 335	8 378	7 394	7 384
*MS DE LA SALLE			2 218	3 228	4 237	3 240	3 249		2 261		
*AN CEARDSCOIL	3 174			6 221		1 239		1 239	2 253	2 246	1 257
BAILE BHUIRNE											
COLÁISTE ÍOSAGÁIN	19 217	27 223	36 237	51 241	57 256	65 252	69 268	69 252	66 240	67 250	65 250
AN CEARDSCOIL	61 116	66 112	71 112	68 104	57 115	64 126	62 118	57 129	42 123	47 125	42 124
BÉAL Á'N GHAORTHAIGH	36 67	37 66	47 77	58 85	56 91	55 83	48 77	41 74	48 ??	45 84	47 90

Béal Á'n Ghaorthaigh changed from MS to CS status from 1976/'7.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WATERFORD POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL GRANTS BY LOCATION

SCHOOL	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
MS NIOCLÁS, AN RINN	22 39	13 41	31 41	40 50	42 53	42 50	39 47	42 43	39 44	41 47	45 50
***DÚN GARBHÁN**											
*CLOCHAR NA TRÓCAIRE							3 402	6 407	4 410	5 424	2 439
*CL. NA TOIRBHIRTE			5 278	4 290	3 292	3 300	2 306	6 318	2 306	1 305	1 311
*AN CEARDSCOIL							1 189	1 211	1 208	1 209	

MEATH POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL GRANTS BY LOCATION

SCHOOL	1973/'4	1974/'5	1975/'6	1976/'7	1977/'8	1978/'9	1979/80	1980/'1	1981/'2	1982/'3	1983/'4
***CEANANNAS** (KELLS)											
*MS NA mBRÁITHRE		1 181	1 199	1 209	1 247			1 340	1 348	1 342	1 340
*CLOCHAR NA TRÓCAIRE	1 321	1 356	2 403	2 417	2 421	5 451	4 448	3 414	4 446	2 438	2 446
*AN CEARDSCOIL	2 280	3 295	2 261					1 173	1 213		
***AN UAIMH**											
*MS PÁDRAIG								2 541	2 548	2 596	
*CLOCHAR LORETO		4 342	5 382	5 404	1 397	1 419	1 462				
*CLOCHAR NA TRÓCAIRE	4 390	4 438	5 477	8 497	7 490	5 516	2 522	6 520	3 528	3 568	
*AN CEARDSCOIL					4 461	9 477	10 544	8 575	8 586	15 571	10 520
***BAILE ÁTHA TROIM** (TRIM)											
*MS NA mBRÁITHRE	7 188	6 189	10 220	8 258	7 242	5 235	3 222	1 228		2 290	2 313
*CLOCHAR NA TRÓCAIRE	3 299	2 290		5 363	6 409	2 435	2 443	3 448	2 469	3 454	2 446
*AN CEARDSCOIL	5 208	6 211	1 196					2 201		1 203	
***BAILE ÁTHA BUÍ** (ATHBOY)											
*CLOCHAR NA TRÓCAIRE	5 235	5 250	4 262	5 272	2 269	3 273	2 284	3 307	1 300	1 309	2 341
*AN CEARDSCOIL	3 162	5 163	7 156	4 151	3 134	2 138	2 139	1 164			